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ARAB TIMES

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Six ships to revert to Kuwaiti flag this month

KUWAIT, Feb 4, (Reuters): Kuwait is likely to haul down the US flag on six of its oil tankers later this month after the move is sanctioned by the US maritime administration, a senior shipping source said today.

Kuwait registered 11 of its oil tankers in the United States in 1987 at the height of the Gulf war to gain American naval protection from Iranian attack in the waterway.

But, tension has eased since Iran and Iraq began observing a ceasefire in August ending eight years of fighting.

Costly

The source said the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) had originally been given until Feb 22 to conform to US tanker specification, including all-American crews.

But KOTC decided it would be too difficult and costly to meet the requirements on six of the vessels — the gas carriers Gas King, Gas Queen, Gas Princess and Gas Prince and the ultra-modern product carriers Townsend and Middleton.

The five that continue to fly the American flag would comply with US rules this year in time for a new February 1990 deadline, the source said.

The Chairman of KOTC, Abdul Fatah Al Bader told a local daily that these five ships will revert to Kuwaiti flag after the expiry of the registration period.

The KOTC chairman said that insurance rates for the Gulf have gone back to their normal levels that prevailed before the Iraq-Iran war.

Drug traffickers

NICOSIA, Feb 4, (Reuters): Iran said today that 1,140 drug traffickers and addicts had been arrested in the latest round of a drive to stamp out narcotics abuse.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- سوویت وزیر خارجہ اہم مذاکرات کیلئے پاکستان پہنچ گئے
- کابل سے سوویت انخلاء چار روز میں مکمل ہونے کا امکان
- افغان صدر نجیب اللہ کی پاکستان پر تکت چوٹی
- گورباچوف مٹی میں جین کا دورہ کریں گے
- کت میں آبادی میں توازن کا منصوبہ
- آسٹریلیا نے نیٹ پر گرفت مضبوط کر لی
- لاہور نامہ

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: slight to moderate

High water: 12.30 pm, 10.00 pm

Low water: 6.00 am, 5.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.36 am

Sunset: 5.29 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 15°C 59°F

Ahmedi: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 1°C 30°F

Ahmedi: 0°C 32°F

Falaka: 0°C 32°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 15°C 59°F

Ahmedi: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 54 per cent

Ahmedi: 53 per cent

Falaka: 55 per cent

UN chief asks for extension of peacekeepers' mandate

Gulf war unlikely to resume: Iran

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 4, (Agencies): UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said yesterday his coming peace talks with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq should produce "neither victor nor vanquished" in order to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Gulf.

Meanwhile an Iranian leader said the Gulf war was unlikely to resume.

Perez de Cuellar urged the Security Council to extend the mandate of a UN military group monitoring a ceasefire along the Iran-Iraq border.

Successful

The ceasefire was declared last Aug 20, but negotiations to resolve differences made no apparent progress. The ceasefire is supervised by the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group whose six-month term will expire on Wednesday, and the council is expected to renew it at a meeting attended by the two foreign ministers at UN headquarters in New York.

"I am looking forward to pursuing the discussions with the two foreign ministers soon," Perez de Cuellar told the council.

"At such time, I shall explore with them how to proceed in the most effective manner," he said.

"For the talks to be successful, both sides have to accept that there will be neither victor nor vanquished at the negotiating table and that the integrity, dignity and honour of both countries will be preserved."

The exact date for a meeting between the UN chief and Foreign Ministers Ali Akbar



Perez de Cuellar

Velayati of Iran and Tareq Aziz of Iraq has not been decided yet, but it will take place sometime next week, UN diplomats said.

Perez de Cuellar last met with them in Paris Jan 7 while they were attending the international conference on chemical weapons.

Requesting the extension Perez de Cuellar said: "It will be clear to the members of the Security Council that the continued presence of UNIMOG is an essential condition for further progress towards the full implementation of Resolution 598," he said.

Exchange

The resolution, adopted by the Security Council July 20, 1987 called for the ceasefire and talks on exchange of prisoners of war, withdrawal of troops and determination of the aggressor in the war that began Sept 1980.

UNIMOG, composed of 350 military officers from 24 countries, was sent to the Iran-Iraq border Aug 17, 1988.

Perez de Cuellar held at least three series of direct talks with Velayati and Aziz since last August, two rounds in Geneva

and one in New York.

The two adversaries had allowed some sick and elderly prisoners of war to return home as a gesture of goodwill. Last week, during talks with Perez de Cuellar's special envoy, Jan Eliasson of Sweden, Iraq agreed to let commercial airlines use its air space when flying to and from Iran. Iraq also agreed to form a joint military commission with Iran and the United Nations to solve disagreements in military matter.

Erupt

Iran's acting armed forces chief, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today the war with Iraq was unlikely to erupt again but he warned Baghdad to withdraw its forces from Iranian soil.

He called on Iraq to pull back its troops to internationally recognised borders soon, Iran's news agency IRNA reported.

"The danger exists that the enemy may wish not to evacuate (its troops) from our territory. Our revolutionary nation could not accept that, the same way we have no desire to occupy a single

(Continued on Page 2)

Sheikh Sabah returns

Assad wishes Arab League team success over Lebanon

KUWAIT, Feb 4, (Agencies): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad returned home today from Damascus after briefing Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the progress made by an Arab League team trying to end the Lebanese crisis.

Sheikh Sabah earlier visited Egypt and met President Hosni Mubarak after ending three days of talks in Tunis with Lebanese leaders.

Officials in Damascus said: President Assad wished the committee success in its efforts to achieve reform in Lebanon and reconciliation among the Lebanese brothers — things that Syria has been keen to achieve for several years.

They said Sheikh Sabah and Assad reviewed developments in Lebanon. Sheikh Sabah also delivered a message to Assad from HH the Amir of Kuwait.

Signs

Sheikh Sabah heads a committee of six Arab foreign ministers given the task by the Arab League of reconciling factions in Lebanon, paralysed by a government power struggle since last September.

In Beirut, the head of Lebanon's Muslim government said today he was ready to start talking to a rival Christian administration if this would help solve the political crisis.

"We are ready if there are signs that this will lead to some kind of

an accord that will extricate Lebanon from the present situation," acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss told a news conference.

Hoss described his talks in Tunis with the Arab League committee as "very positive and fruitful."

The committee also had talks with Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Husseini and Major-General Michel Aoun, head of the rival Christian government.

Insisted

After the meetings in Tunis Sheikh Sabah said Hoss and Aoun were still at odds, mainly over reforms to the sectarian-based political system.

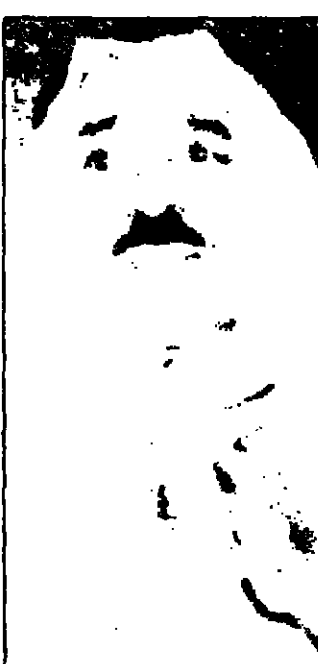
Hoss said his government insisted that all presidential contenders should present a reform programme to give each sect a fair share in the system, which currently reserves the presidency for a Christian.

"We are aware of the importance of electing a new President but we cannot consider a candidate unless we know his views on reforms," he said.

Consult

He said contacts were being increased between the Arab committee and Western states to find a settlement for Lebanon.

Shiite Lebanese Deputy Kazem Al Khalil urged other members of Parliament to meet next Thursday to re-elect or replace Hussein, whose term ended in October when



Sheikh Sabah

Parliament failed to muster a quorum to choose a successor.

Some legal experts say Khalil, 84, the oldest member of Parliament, has the constitutional right to call for a meeting.

Aoun has been briefing Western diplomats, including US Ambassador John McCarthy, on his Tunis talks.

French government envoy Jean Francois Deniau, who arrived in Beirut on Friday, met Aoun and other Christian officials to discuss ways of pushing the Tunis dialogue forward.

Sheikh Sabah said the committee would consult other Lebanese leaders in Kuwait at the end of this month. It would report back to other Arab foreign ministers and possibly to an Arab League summit.

Efforts to unite Afghan rebels continue

Soviets to pull out within 4 days

NICOSIA, Feb 4, (Agencies): The chief Soviet negotiator on Afghanistan said today Soviet troops would complete their withdrawal within four days, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported.

"Soviet forces are due to leave Afghan territory within four days and therefore, it is necessary that its neighbours exchange views on the future of Afghanistan," IRNA quoted First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov as telling reporters in Tehran.

Moscow has said the last of its estimated 115,000 Soviet troops would withdraw from Afghanistan before a UN-mandated Feb 15 deadline. A large Soviet convoy left Kabul on Thursday night.

Coalition

Vorontsov was speaking on arrival in Tehran where he is to meet an Iran-based coalition of eight Afghan rebel groups as well as Sighatullah Mojaddidi, leader of the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance.

Vorontsov, in an interview with Tehran Radio, said: "Under the current circumstances, it is necessary that we hold talks on the ways of ensuring a peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan."

"Only the people of Afghanistan are allowed to decide on their future and no one else has the right to interfere."

Efforts

Fears have mounted of a bloodbath between rebels and troops loyal to Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah, after Soviet troops withdraw.

The mujahadeen groups have been holding talks in Tehran about the composition of a future government.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who met Mojaddidi yesterday, stressed the need for all factions to unite and form a strong Islamic government after Moscow completed its troop withdrawal.

Mojaddidi flew to Tehran from Pakistan on Thursday with Velayati, who had pursued efforts to unite the Iran- and Pakistan-based Afghan factions.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was due in Pakistan late tonight on a visit that has provoked intense diplomatic speculation that Moscow may have a new plan to end the Afghan civil war.

Mujahadeen have agreed in principle not to attack UN planes that will be airlifting food and medical supplies into Afghanistan's besieged capital within days, United Nations officials said.

UN spokeswoman Nadia Younes said yesterday that the airlift to Kabul's two million residents "is all in the effort to assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan."

In return for the guerrillas' promise not to attack the planes, the United Nations has pledged to send more relief supplies into regions controlled by the rebels, according to UN officials in Geneva, speaking by telephone on condition of anonymity.

The head of the United Nations relief effort for Afghanistan, Sadruddin Agha Khan, arrived in the Pakistani capital today with an appeal to warring

Afghan communists and Muslim rebels to "give peace a chance."

British and French diplomats left Kabul today, joining an exodus of Western countries closing their embassies as the last Soviet soldiers pull out of Afghanistan.

An independent investigating panel, in a report to the United Nations, accused the Soviet Union yesterday of sowing new land mines as it began retreating from Afghanistan last summer.

The report to the UN Economic and Social Council says estimates of the number of mines sown by Soviet and Afghan Army forces ranged from five million to 30 million, many of them anti-personnel mines in civilian areas.

In Islamabad, government officials yesterday denied Afghanistan's claim that Pakistani jet fighters shot down a disabled Afghan passenger plane this week, killing all 14 people on board.

Official Radio Kabul, said on Thursday the aircraft was carrying food supplies from Kabul, the capital, to Khost, 12 miles (20 kilometres) from the Pakistan border on Tuesday.

The plane strayed off course due to technical problems and bad weather, the radio said.

Accord to resume Taba talks

CAIRO, Feb 4, (AP): Egypt and Israel will resume talks today on a disputed border area and have set a Feb 28 deadline to agree on a date for the withdrawal of Israel from Taba, a Foreign Ministry official said today.

The official, who could not be named under ministry regulations, said an agreement to this effect was signed today by Nabil El Araby, head of Egypt's Taba delegation, Shamoun Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Cairo and Frank Wisner, the US ambassador to Egypt.

The United States is a full partner in the Taba negotiations and has been trying to break the deadlock in the talks which came up at the end of January.

Premier gets Bush's message

KUWAIT, Feb 4, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah today received a message from the US President George Bush.

DAY BY DAY

ONCE again, we wish to inform the Ministry of the Interior that all over the world, entry visas are provided for a few days to visitors at the airport itself.

This facility is provided to facilitate the visitor enough time to either settle his position or leave the country.

Such temporary visas are provided to certain nationalities who have been from past experience known to cause no problems. This measure if instituted in Kuwait will certainly give a boost to local trade. If local trade is to be given any consideration, this suggestion should be implemented.

Unfortunately, all signs indicate that officials will always like to see doors closed in order to stop winds from blowing in so as to provide them with enough rest.

It is also to be remembered that the duty of security personnel is to be constantly vigilant and not to rest or sleep.

Zahed Matar

Expats won't be sacked just to reduce their number

RECTIFYING the demographic structure is the prime objective of Kuwait's development plan, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the Minister of Planning has said.

The minister said that a number of measures will be taken to strike a balance between the number of Kuwaitis and expatriates.

One of the measures will be to reduce dependence on expatriate manpower through wider use

and deployment of modern technology and encouraging nationals to effectively increase their contributions to the production process.

Employ

But, he added that reducing expatriate manpower does not mean getting rid of certain groups of employees. "It must be understood that work must be carried out."

Awadi said that the government will not employ non-

productive Kuwaitis just for the sake of sacking expatriates. "At the same time, doors will be opened for capable Kuwaitis to carry out work in the best possible manner," Awadi added.

Explaining Kuwait's development plan, he said that the government will encourage the high population growth rate of Kuwaitis and take all the necessary measures to keep it high. The plan lays emphasis on paying more attention to mother

care and child welfare programmes, encouraging early marriages by providing aid, loans and social services.

The plan aims at developing the national manpower through training and education. It also encourages women to join the work-force — thus increasing the contribution of the nationals, Awadi said.

On the 1990-1995 five-year plan, he said that the new plan will be discussed by the Council

of Ministers, other cabinet committees and the Fatwa and Legislation Department. Implementation is expected to commence from the middle of next year, Awadi said.

On the role of the private sector in development, the minister said that the government will not hesitate to hand over any project to the private sector if it is convinced that the latter is capable of undertaking the responsibilities professionally.

Angola offers amnesty in bid to end civil war

LUANDA, Feb 4, (Reuters): The Angolan government introduced an amnesty today which it hopes will help end the country's 13-year-old civil war against US-backed guerrillas.

The 12-month amnesty, which follows a peace accord with South Africa in December, is open to rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) who renounce violence and accept the Marxist government's authority.

The ruling MPLA Party, in power since independence in 1975, refuses to negotiate with the rebels.

Released

"The policy of clemency and national harmonisation decreed by our party is today a reality," Major-General Juliao Mateus Paulo, a senior member of the ruling party, told a rally in Kinaxixi square in Luanda.

"We must always keep in mind that our people want peace," he said.

As well as the amnesty, an unspecified number of UNITA prisoners were due to be released from prison today.

The amnesty was launched on a public holiday marking the 28th anniversary of the start of the armed uprising against Portuguese colonial rule which led the MPLA — the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola — to power.

Foreign countries, particularly the United States, are sceptical about the effectiveness of the amnesty law.

Senior US State Department official Alison Rosenberg said after talks with Angolan officials that the United States did not believe the amnesty would be enough to end the Angolan war.

"I guess we just don't think it will solve the problem... we think that what they need is a dialogue," she said. Most Western diplomats in Luanda say privately that they share Rosenberg's view.

Shultz glad to be home

STANFORD, California, Feb 4, (AP): Former Secretary of State George Shultz says he doesn't miss the power and pomp of his old job and is happy to be back home on the Stanford University campus.

"No blue books, no term papers," he said in an interview published yesterday in the Peninsula Times Tribune newspaper. "I'd like to just sit around with students and let them ask questions, shoot the bull."

"Things like that are fun," Shultz, who left the White House on Jan 20, spoke on the condition that no questions would be asked regarding foreign policy.

Shultz, 68, is one of four honorary fellows at the Hoover Institution, a conservative think

tank. He has also returned to his office at the Graduate School of Business, where he was on leave as a professor.

Positive

He said he feels good about what he accomplished for the Ronald Reagan administration.

"Some like the Reagan era and some don't, but I think it was a productive and positive era," Shultz said. "Things were turned around. A lot happened."

Among other things, he said the Reagan years saw "a great maturing and improvement of our relations in Asia and the Pacific."

"We saw NATO prosper, and working with our friends and allies, we saw relations with the Soviet Union change a lot. There was a big ripple effect there."

Castro denies differences with Soviet leader

CARACAS, Venezuela, Feb 4, (AP): Cuban President Fidel Castro yesterday said he has no ideological differences with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, but added Soviet-style reforms would not help in Cuba.

Castro also reiterated an invitation to Pope John Paul II to visit Cuba and expressed his desire for Cuba's return to the Organisation of American States.

"I have no ideological or political discrepancies with Gorbachev. I have excellent relations with him," Castro said in a televised interview.

Castro came to Caracas this week for the first time in 30 years to attend the inauguration of Venezuela President Carlos Andres Perez.

"It is also not the case that Cuba does not want to open up, but that our two nations confront different problems and therefore seek different solutions," Castro said, speaking of the Soviet Union's policy of perestroika, or economic and social restructuring for greater efficiency. Castro has refused to implement similar reforms in Cuba.

Reforms

"The Soviet Union has begun under Gorbachev a series of political and administrative reforms for solutions to problems which have nothing to do with Cuba's problems," he said.

Castro reiterated that he and the Cuban people would be honoured to be visited by Pope John Paul II at any time.

He said he had no goals for his visit to Venezuela, but praised the "extraordinary unity" of the more than 20 Latin American leaders gathered here for the inauguration.

When asked if this unity could mean that the time is ripe for Cuba's re-entry in the OAS, he said, "I think so."

Cuba was kicked out of the OAS shortly after its 1958 communist revolution.

Rodriguez sworn in as provisional President

ASUNCION, Paraguay, Feb 4, (AP): Gen. Andres Rodriguez, promising to govern with moderation, was sworn in as provisional President yesterday, hours after ousting President Gen. Alfredo Stroessner in a violent coup.

Rodriguez ordered the dictator out of the country he had ruled for 34 years.

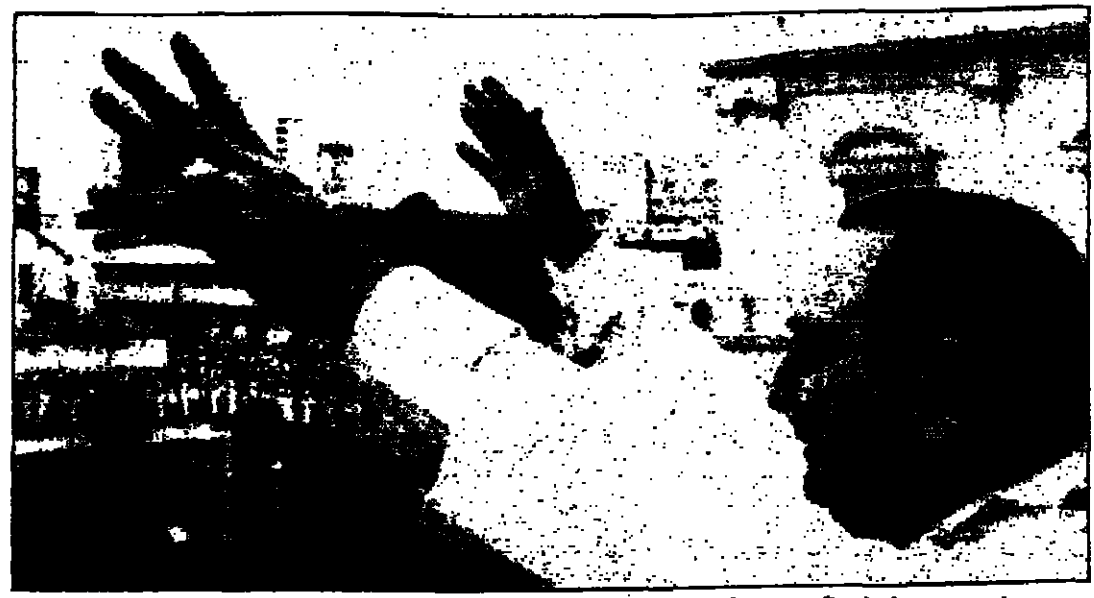
"My government will respect the human rights of everyone to make democracy a reality," Rodriguez said yesterday during a short speech at the stately, grey 19th century national palace overlooking the broad Paraguay River.

Meanwhile, Cox newspapers, quoting from a classified US State Department report, said yesterday that Rodriguez is considered by law enforcement authorities in Paraguay to be the country's No. 1 drug trafficker.

Protection

The New York Times today quoted John Hoyt Williams, a professor of Latin American history at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana, as saying, "Rodriguez has reportedly provided protection, airfields and an air taxi service to people smuggling drugs northward."

At least 18 soldiers and a handful of civilians were killed during clashes between troops loyal to Stroessner and Rodriguez, the Roman Catholic church-run Radio Caritas said. The radio report speculated that the total



Rodriguez waves to supporters from the balcony of the government house, after being sworn in as provisional President. (Reuters wirephoto)

could top 200.

It gave no source for its estimate or explanation for the wide fluctuation. Officials at the main military and police hospitals refused to give figures on casualties, and the new government made no estimate.

Escort

But a police sergeant said on condition of anonymity: "I'm sad for my 35 dead companions. About 150 soldiers died at the presidential escort battalion, and two civilians."

After the coup, Stroessner, 76, was put under house arrest at an

Army base, about 30 of his followers and aides detained, and the hierarchy of the government and ruling Colorado Party replaced.

Cheered

Stroessner was ordered out of the country, and unconfirmed reports said he was going to Santiago, Chile. But Gen. Mario Marcondes, Santiago police commander, said: "He is definitely not coming here tonight. He is still in Paraguay. That's official."

Several thousand people

cheered as Rodriguez took the oath of office and then swore in a nine-member cabinet that included seven civilians. About 15,000 accompanied him to the ruling Colorado Party headquarters and cheered again when he reinstated Juan Ramon Chaves, 87, as party president, replacing pro-Stroessner militant Sabino Montonaro.

"We're going to have a true democracy," shouted Domingo Laino, president of the national accord group of four opposition parties and Paraguay's best-known human rights advocate.

Sakharov to visit Italy

MOSCOW, Feb 4, (Reuters): Soviet human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov and his wife Yelena Bonner leave today for Italy, the physicist's second trip abroad since a ban on foreign travel was lifted last October.

Bonner said today that Sakharov would receive an honorary doctorate at Bologna University. He will deliver lectures at the Universities of Bologna and Siena and visit Florence, where he will be named an honorary citizen.

Bonner said she would be undergoing tests on her eyes as she did with Siena specialist Renato Frezzotti in 1985.

40 million fell victim to Stalin: article

MOSCOW, Feb 4, (AP): A Soviet tabloid said today that 40 million people were arrested, executed or repressed under Josef Stalin's rule, and the newspaper gave the most detailed breakdown of the dictator's victims ever reported in the official press.

The figures were not new for Western readers, but their appearance in arguments and facts, whose circulation is 20 million, marked a fresh attempt to erase what Soviets call "blank spots" in their history. The magazine's issue was dated Feb 4-10 and some subscribers received it in the mail yesterday.

Historian Roy Medvedev gave the 40 million figure in an interview with the newspaper and said it included all "victims of Stalinism." He said he based the number of his own calculations of the number arrested, executed and otherwise punished.

Vague

The figure was much higher than the vague estimate previously on the official record. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in a November 1987 speech that "many thousands of people... were subjected to wholesale repressive measures" under Stalin.

Western historians believe

that some 20 million Soviets died under Stalin, who ruled from 1922-1953. Many Soviets have heard the figure from underground publications or other sources. Medvedev implied in his interview that a total of 20 million people were killed during Stalin's rule.

Col. Gen. Dmitri A. Volkogonov, a military historian, has said a biography he is writing of Stalin, "Triumph and Tragedy," will give an unofficial estimate of the number of people killed under the dictator. The biography, the first comprehensive Soviet review of Stalin, is scheduled for release early this year.

Ranking

Also today, the daily newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya reported that a mass grave had been discovered in Gornostan, 1,800 miles (3,057 kilometres) southeast of Moscow in the Russian republic. It said construction workers came upon human remains and that so far 50 skulls of men, ranging in age from 30 to 50, had been found.

They had been shot through the temple or back of the head. The report said a prison camp had been located in the region and that authorities could not yet guess how many people were buried there.

Satellite TV arrives in Britain

LONDON, Feb 4, (AP): Satellite television arrives in Britain today with much fanfare but few viewers.

When media magnate Rupert Murdoch launches his four-channel Sky television network, the number of channels available in Britain will double.

But the equipment needed to receive the satellite signals in British homes is in short supply and will be for several more weeks, if not months.

Only 5,000 to 20,000 homes will be equipped to tune in today, giving just a fraction of the 56 million Britons a chance to watch the 6 pm (1800 GMT) premiere.

Watching television is Britain's most popular leisure activity, even with only four channels, two commercial and two run by the state-funded British Broadcasting Corp.

Direct satellite-to-home television is the beginning of a new skirmish between Britain's two biggest newspaper publishers, who are both trying to crack the satellite market.

Libyan plant's computer is US-made

BONN, Feb 4, (Reuters): The central computer at a suspected poison gas factory in Libya is reported to have been made in the United States, the head of one of West Germany's governing coalition parties said today.

Otto Lambsdorf, chairman of the Free Democratic Party, said West German companies denounced by US officials for helping build the factory were not the only Western contributors.

"According to reports, the central computer at Rabta comes from the United States," Lambsdorf, who is currently on a trip to Washington, said in a West German radio interview.

"So many (firms) are involved here. But it's still necessary that, first, we improve our own export controls and, second, more severely punish those who violate existing laws," said Lambsdorf, a former economics

minister.

West German authorities have under US pressure begun to investigate exporters which provided Libya with key materials and know-how to build the plant at Rabta, near Tripoli.

After weeks of dismissing the US allegations as lacking in substance, Bonn last month sanctioned criminal inquiries against several firms.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Helicopter crash

NAIROBI, Feb 4, (UPI): Heavy rains and flooding have swept away bridges and left hundreds of people homeless in the Central African nation of Burundi, where the armed forces chief is believed dead in a helicopter crash caused by the storms, radio reports said today.

Official Burundi Radio, said eight members of a single family remained missing after being swept away by floods near the capital, Bujumbura. Hundreds more were billeted in churches after having their homes destroyed by floods and mudslides.

At least two major bridges were reported destroyed by the flooding, the radio said.

Oil spill

WASHINGTON, Feb 4, (Reuters): An Antarctic scientist said yesterday an oil spill from an Argentine shipwreck was having a significant short-term effect on the region's fauna.

But Ted Delaca, chief scientist in the US National Science Foundation's division of polar programmes, said it was not clear what lasting damage the oil might cause to wildlife.

We have noted some very significant effects on the biota, Delaca said in a telephone news conference from the US Palmer Research Station on the Antarctic peninsula.

Amputation

ATHENS, Feb 4, (Reuters): A Greek public prosecutor shot by urban guerrillas more than three weeks ago had a gangrenous finger amputated last night following the amputation of both legs earlier in the week, his doctors said today.

A medical bulletin said Costas Andronikidis, 52, remained in grave condition and further surgery could not be ruled out. However, his blood pressure had improved.

Honorary doctor

KANO, Nigeria, Feb 4, (Reuters): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi is to be made an honorary doctor of law by the Bayero University in Northern Kano, the news agency AP Nigeria said today.

It said the degree would be conferred during a university ceremony on Feb 11 but gave no indication as to whether Khaddafi would collect his award in person.

False alarm

LONDON, Feb 4, (AP): A Toronto-bound jumbo jet with 214 people on board made an emergency landing at Glasgow airport after a passenger said she thought someone had tampered with her luggage in the hold, police and airline officials said today.

"It was a false alarm," said Glasgow police inspector Robert Nicholson. "There was a bit of concern, but everything turned out to have a happy ending."

Killer shark

PIOMBINO, Italy, Feb 4, (Reuters): A famous shark hunter has been drafted in to search for a presumed killer shark that devoured a scuba diver off the Italian coast, authorities said today.

Pieces of flesh and diving suit were washed ashore, but port officials said helicopters and up to 100 police and volunteers had found no trace of a shark.

Prostate surgery

SINGAPORE, Feb 4, (AP): President Wee Kim Wee underwent surgery today to remove a portion of his enlarged prostate, the Ministry of Communications and Information said.

The 73-year-old President was in satisfactory condition after the operation, the ministry said in a statement.

Gulf war unlikely to resume

(Continued from Page 1)

inch of enemy territory." Rafsanjani told military academy graduates in Tehran.

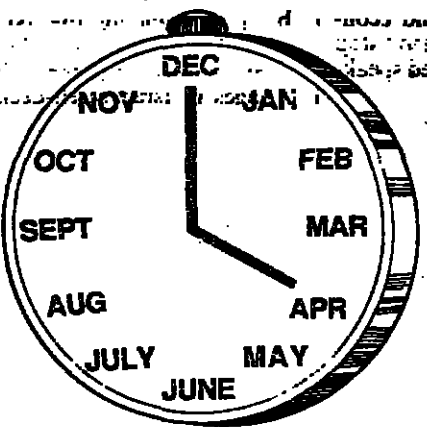
"We think the chances of war resuming again are weak," he said. But he added: "Even if a real peace is achieved, the armed forces should remain highly prepared."

Combat pay

Meanwhile the general in charge of the US Central Command has recommended suspension of combat pay for sailors in the Gulf, Defence Department sources say.

The recommendation, under review by the joint chiefs of staff, is the strongest indication yet that US defence officials believe the truce between Iran and Iraq may hold.

The "imminent danger" bonuses, previously known as hostile fire or combat pay, are worth \$110 a month and have been paid to servicemen working inside the Gulf since August 1987.



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Sri Lanka marks Independence Day

Premadasa calls for peace

COLOMBO, Feb 4, (AP): President Ranasinghe Premadasa, in an Independence Day address to the nation today, called for an end to the violence tearing apart this once idyllic island and promised a revolution to eliminate poverty.

"We must terminate ethnic discord (so that) in the years ahead a new revolution will flourish in every hamlet, village and town to eliminate poverty, create an equitable social order and eliminate discrimination," he said.

Premadasa, who took over the island's most powerful post of executive President on Jan 2, presided over an austere Independence Day celebration as part of his plan to save wasteful expenditure.

Sri Lanka's independence from Britain in 1948 was commemorated by a 100-member honour guard that presented arms to the President. Schoolgirls dressed in white sang while guns boomed 21 times in salute.

The ceremony was witnessed by former President Junius Jayewardene and his wife Elna, members of the diplomatic corps and legislators in the capital's independence square.

Religious services also were held in temples, churches and mosques.

HH the Amir of Kuwait today sent a cable of greetings to Premadasa on the occasion.

Premadasa has vowed to give money to 1.4 million families who earn less than the national per capita income of \$60 dollars.

Shortly after accepting the presidency, he announced a plan to pay poor people a monthly dole of \$75 for a period of two years, beginning in April.

About seven million of Sri Lanka's 16 million people stand to gain from this anti-poverty scheme. Premadasa has not specified where funds for the scheme will come from, though he has urged all government departments to curb their expenses.

Premadasa, 64, rose from



Sri Lankan Ambassador A.Q.H. Mohamed (fifth right) yesterday hosted his country's national flag to mark the Independence Day. The ceremony at the embassy was attended by a large number of Sri Lankans.

lower middle class beginnings to his present position, unlike previous Sri Lankan leaders who have inherited family wealth and aristocratic backgrounds.

His major campaign pledge before winning elections to the presidency on Dec 19 was to eliminate hunger, homelessness and poverty that he claimed he had experienced and understood.

Political analysts, however, insist the major hurdle in the

Premadasa presidency will be to curb ethnic insurgencies that have torn the island nation apart since 1983, not poverty.

Sri Lanka, a multi-ethnic society of 16 million people is made up of Sinhalese, who are mostly Buddhist and form 75 per cent of the population, and Tamils, who are mostly Hindus and make up 18 per cent.

Tamils are in a slight majority in the north and eastern provinces of the country.

Goodwill gesture by Hezbollah

Beirut hostages to be freed soon

BEIRUT, Feb 4, (AP): A weekly magazine said today two American hostages will be freed soon. Four other publications reported an imminent release of some of the 15 Westerners held by pro-Iranian extremists, without specifying their nationalities.

The magazine An Nahar said Hezbollah, has "decided to release two American captives as a goodwill gesture."

The group, comprising Shiite Muslim fundamentalists loyal to Iran, is believed to be an umbrella for underground factions that have claimed the abduction of most of the Westerners missing since 1985.

The magazine, based in East Beirut, quoted an unnamed Hezbollah official as saying, "The scenario is being set for the release." The short report gave no other details.

The weekly Al Shiraa, a magazine that gained international fame when it broke the story of the secret US arms sales to Iran in November 1987, also reported this week that the case of the hostages "has been put on a hot burner."

"This could result in releasing them...in the light of a decision to this effect adopted by regional powers interested in this case," it said without elaboration.

The independent daily An Nahar and the conservative Ad Diyar reported today that the release of foreign captives in Lebanon was part of an agreement mediated by Syria and Iran this week to end a bloody inter-Shiite power struggle between Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed mainstream Amal militia.

Informed sources believe that the basic aim of the Amal-Hezbollah accord is to work on the release of foreign captives held in Lebanon. "An Nahar's terse report said."

Ad Diyar, in its equally brief report, quoted an unnamed official as saying the Amal-Hezbollah accord "could result in the handing over of some foreign hostages to the Syrians."

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon. It has some 40,000 troops controlling Muslim areas, including northern and eastern provinces as well as west and

south Beirut.

The leftist daily As Safir, which is close to the Syrian Army command in Lebanon, said: "Diplomatic information speak of the possible release of some (foreign) hostages in the next two weeks."

Message

The report said the issue "will be the focus of attention in the coming days. Recent reports about the possible release of Irish hostage Brian Keenan were indirect messages to the Americans and the Britons." It did not elaborate.

Nabih Berri, leader of Amal, said in Damascus after the agreement with Hezbollah was signed on Monday, "the peace pact did not refer directly to the hostages, but I am sure that this agreement would help (secure) the release of hostages as quickly as possible."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who negotiated on Iran's behalf during the Damascus talks, said: "Nobody will be satisfied with the holding of the hostages, so we do hope that all the hostages ... will be

released."

Irish Ambassador Patrick McCabe flew in from Baghdad last week to verify reports that Keenan, 38, would be freed.

McCabe, who is ambassador to Lebanon and Iraq, said Wednesday that he hoped the statements by Berri and Velayati would result in the release of some foreign captives "before too long."

"I hope that what was said about the hostages by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati and Amal president Berri might prove to inaugurate positive developments in regard to the hostages," he said.

Rumours that buzzed last week said Keenan, who also holds British citizenship, would be released.

A native of Ormeau Road, Belfast, Keenan was kidnapped April 11, 1986, as he walked to the American University of Beirut where he held a teaching job.

No group claimed his abduction which came amid a wave of kidnapping blamed on pro-Iranian zealots.

Chinese greet Year of the Snake

BEIJING, Feb 4, (UPI): Families across China slaughtered their fattest pigs, welcomed relatives and readied arsenals of fireworks today to usher in the Year of the Snake, hoping for its promise of stability and progress as they ring out the old year.

Following China's 5,000-year-old lunar calendar, the Snake Year begins on Monday on the biggest Chinese annual festival and heralds 12 months of steadiness and wisdom, despite a turbulent undercurrent, the "little dragon" on the Chinese zodiac.

In China, celebrations bidding farewell to the Year of the Dragon, the most auspicious of the 12 ancient animal years, will be subdued by the country's bouts with rampant inflation, rampant corruption and widening gaps in living standards.

But at midnight on Sunday, the lunar New Year's Eve, Chinese communities from Sydney to New York will welcome the snake with barrages of fireworks to scare off any lingering ghosts from casting an evil eye over the propitious moment.

Reveries in China will again explode millions of firecrackers, seemingly unfazed by the hundreds of deaths and injuries caused each year by this type of celebration.

Most Chinese will, for three days, gathering for feasts, visiting friends, attending fairs and flocking to Buddhist temples. Peasants across China are butchering their choicest pigs and cleaning house for visiting relatives.

Israel accused of acting like Nazis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 4, (Reuters): A UN officer in south Lebanon accused Israeli forces this week of acting like Nazis, Israel Radio said.

The report said Israel lodged a complaint with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) over remarks by a Norwegian battalion commander, J.E. Karlsen. The Army declined to comment on the report.

Israel Radio said Karlsen had been denouncing the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army's expulsions of residents from villages in Israel's self-declared security zone.

Military sources estimated the SLA has expelled some 70 residents of Shabab village at the foot of Mount Hermon in the last two months on suspicion of anti-SLA activities.

Four others were expelled from the eastern sector of the security zone this week, Israeli sources said.

Karlsen made the remarks during a meeting between about 20 Israeli and UNIFIL commanders in south Lebanon on Thursday, Hecht said.

African mothers must put limit to children

WASHINGTON, Feb 4, (AP): The World Bank has appealed to African mothers to bear only half as many children in the future.

This would mean a reduction in the average number per mother to 3.3 children from the current 6.7 by the year 2015.

The recommendation came in a speech by Edward J.V. Jaycox, vice-president of the World Bank for Africa. The bank is the largest source of aid loans to Third World countries.

Jaycox's speech was delivered at a conference on safe motherhood in Niamey, the capital of Niger.

"Africa has the choice of filling its spaces quickly with many relatively ill-fed, unhealthy, uneducated, underemployed people — or of spacing its children so that both they and the society as a whole have a better chance of a much better life," said Jaycox of the United States.

In another speech the bank's senior vice-president for operations, Moeen Qureshi, said there were signs of a turnaround in eight countries that are among the poorest in the southern part of the continent.

He reported that for the first time in 15 years, the average rate of economic growth in the area had overtaken the rate at which population was growing — 4.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent.

Students clash with Israeli troops

Youth shot dead in Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 4, (Reuters): The Israeli Army shot dead a 15-year-old Palestinian and wounded 15 students today in a Gaza Strip refugee camp schoolyard, eyewitnesses said.

Alaa Arandas, from the Khan Younis refugee camp, came to school this morning to find troops surrounding the building and searching his classmates, the witnesses said. Some of the students protested and stoned the soldiers.

Troops fired tear gas to disperse the students and then opened fire, killing Arandas and wounding 15 others. The Army said it was checking the report.

Arandas' older brother Sabri

was also shot dead by troops in a clash in November, his family said. He was 21 when he died.

At least 381 Palestinians and 14 Jews have been killed in the uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip which began on Dec 9, 1987.

Curfew

The Army imposed a curfew on Khan Younis refugee camp, confining the 34,000 residents to their homes.

Last night troops used tear gas to disperse hundreds of Jewish settlers demonstrating in an occupied West Bank Arab village after stone-throwers injured a settler's child.

Settlers from the Jewish town

of Ariel went to the nearby Arab village of Azoun after the stoning. Despite Army efforts to stop them, they managed to get round roadblocks and threw stones, shattering windscreens of village vehicles.

The incident followed the stoning of an Ariel resident's car earlier in the evening in which a boy was slightly hurt.

The settlers have criticised the Army for not doing enough to defend them against Palestinian stone-throwers and have demanded harsher measures to put down the uprising.

About 70,000 Jewish settlers live among 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

US may release Somalia funds

WASHINGTON, Feb 4, (Reuters): Secretary of State James Baker suggested that the United States would release some of the \$55 million withheld from Somalia if the African country proceeded with promised economic and human rights reforms.

After a half-hour meeting with Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Samatar, Baker was asked if he had made any commitment about US assistance.

"We talked about...if Somalia is going to make these changes, the importance of seeing to it that they are properly supported," Baker told reporters.

"We talked about the importance of implementing the changes which have been ordered in Somalia respecting human rights," he added, terming the

meeting "very fruitful."

US officials said previously that the State Department has told Congress it would be "an important next step" to release \$15 million in 1987 economic funds in conjunction with an economic programme with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Earlier, in a speech to the National Press Club, Samatar said he expected 200 political prisoners to be released within a few weeks as part of his government's economic and political reforms.

"They are going to be released very quickly, perhaps in a matter of weeks," Samatar said through an interpreter. He said a commission would process the names of the prisoners and present them to the President so he can issue a release order.

During his appearance, several members of the opposition Somali National Movement challenged Samatar's comments about human rights and economic reforms and chanted "stop the killing" as he finished speaking.

He invited them to return to Somalia as part of a general amnesty to opponents of the government.

Diplomat expelled

BERNE, Feb 4, (Reuters): Switzerland has expelled a Soviet diplomat for industrial espionage, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

It did not name the official but said he had tried to obtain secret Western technology and to plant agents in industry and research establishments since 1987.

Marcos wants to die in his homeland

MANILA, Feb 4, (AP): Vice-President Salvador Laurel said today doctors hope the former President Ferdinand Marcos has lost the will to live, has only a 10 per cent chance of surviving the year and wants to "die in his own country."

Laurel, speaking to reporters after returning from Hawaii, said he would seek a meeting immediately with President Corason Aquino to relay Marcos' wish and appeal "to her sense of Christian values" to allow the former President to come home to die.

Aquino has refused to allow Marcos or members of his family to return from Honolulu, where they have lived since a popular uprising toppled his 20-year administration in February 1986.

Laurel said doctors in Honolulu told him Marcos might not survive the trip to the Philippines but that the former President would prefer to die on the plane rather than on foreign soil.

"Marcos expressed to me his desire to die in his own country," Laurel said. The Vice-President said Marcos' wife, Imelda, and three children should also be allowed to return to this Asian nation.

Mitterrand ends visit to India

France-UAE Mirage snag resolved

DUBAI, Feb 4, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand stopped over in Dubai en route home from India today, and an aide confirmed that a snag that had delayed delivery of Mirage 2000 jet fighters for more than a year has been resolved.

The French President met during his two-hour stopover with United Arab Emirates Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid and sailed briefly on a traditional Arab dhow.

French Foreign Trade Minister Jean Marie Rausch later told reporters that the "technical problems" that had held up delivery of the 36-sophisticated, French-built aircraft were ironed out in November.

Support

Delivery of the jet fighters "will begin soon," he said, without disclosing a date or elaborating on the problem and how it was resolved.

France is a major arms supplier of the oil-rich UAE. Delivery of the planes was supposed to begin in later 1987, but the planes were held up because the UAE requested undisclosed technical specifications which

France was reluctant to meet.

Mitterrand, meanwhile, assured the United Arab Emirates in a statement before departure that it could count on French support in all spheres.

He also expressed hope that France would be able to depend on the Gulf Arab country in the same manner.

Earlier, Mitterrand held an unscheduled 30-minute meeting with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the airport before leaving for Paris during which he forwarded plans for deeper Indo-French ties.

The Press Trust of India news agency said Rajiv, his Italian-born wife Sonia and other Indian leaders bid farewell to Mitterrand and his wife Danielle.

Mitterrand and Rajiv held an unscheduled talk in the ceremonial lounge for about 30 minutes, the news agency said, without specifying what the leaders discussed. The heads-of-state had met previously three times during Mitterrand's four day visit.

Mitterrand kicked off his Indian tour in New Delhi on Wednesday, aiming to strengthen Indo-French trade relations.

Kidnappers free Filipino captives

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Feb 4, (AP): A band of kidnappers today released a civic leader, a businessman and four government employees, who were abducted for ransom more than 50 days ago, officials said.

One official who helped negotiate the release declined to say if any ransom was paid. The group had initially demanded 500,000 pesos (\$25,000), but later lowered their demand to 150,000 pesos (\$7,500).

Councilor Edmundo Rodriguez said the six captives were released on the outskirts of this city, 864 kilometres southeast of Manila, late last night and rushed to a hospital for physical examinations.

Felix Rosario, vice-president of the Family Planning Organisation of the Philippines, and the four city employees were abducted on Dec 12 as they were returning from an inspection of some projects.

The city's budget officer, Virginia Gara, was with the group but managed to escape with her driver shortly after the abduction, Rodriguez said.

He said authorities expected only five hostages to be released, but when they arrived at the turnover site they found the kidnappers also had freed a businessman kidnapped on Dec 2. He did not identify the woman.

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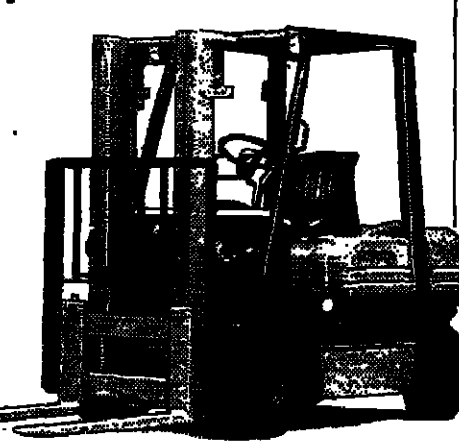
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GO WITH THE LEADER

Sheikh Saad to visit Iraq with official delegation

BAGHDAD, Feb 4, (KUNA): Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Assem Yacoub Yousef welcomed here today the scheduled three-day visit of HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to Baghdad next Monday.

The envoy told KUNA that HH's visit follows the positive developments in relations between the two countries in which Kuwait demonstrated honourable stands on all levels toward Iraq during its war with Iran.

He affirmed the importance of Sheikh Saad's visit, pointing out that numerous issues in Arab and Gulf arenas will be discussed in addition to bilateral relations.

Yousef explained that the Crown Prince will be briefed on the latest progress in the ongoing peace talks between Iraq and Iran in addition to discussing co-ordination of foreign policies.

Other issues of common interest in spheres of commerce and information along with joint projects will be considered, he underlined.

The ambassador said that co-operation in security and cultural fields will be reviewed.

HH will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Moham-

med Al Ossaimi, Trade and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khaled and Board Chairman and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah.

The delegation will also include Undersecretary of His Highness' Diwan Abdul Latif Abdul Rahman Rahman Al Baher, Foreign, Interior and Electricity and Water Undersecretaries Sulaiman Majed Al Shahin, Maj. Gen. Yousef Bader Al Kharafi and Abdullah Mohammed Al Menayes along with Director of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Nation Department Head Abdul Hamid Abdul Razak Al Suaijan. In Baghdad, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Ibrahim Jasssem Al Baho will join the team.

The delegation further groups publisher of Al Rai Al Am newspaper Abdul Aziz Fahd Al Masaeed, Board Chairman and Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Bageer Hmoud Al Bageer, head of the Kuwait Journalists Association Ahmad Yousef Behbehani, chief editors of Al Seyassah, Al Watan, Al Anbaa, Al Qabas and Kuwait Times, in addition to other officials from the Crown Prince and Premier's Diwan and media from Information Ministry and KUNA.

Warning on foot and mouth disease in cows

OWNERS of cow farms have warned of the dangers of the spread of foot and mouth disease in the Sulabiya area. They said that their cows did not respond to treatment provided by the Animal Health Department of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth.

The infection they said originated at the northern farms of Sulabiya area. Strong winds contributed to the spread and expansion of the virus.

However, weak cows could not respond to the treatment provided by the authorities. In some farms nearly 95 per cent of the cows were infected and stopped providing milk. Some two to three per cent of calves on the farms died.

Farmers attributed the cause of the disease to locally produced fertilisers from which the virus originated. Infected cows refuse to eat and suffer from high temperatures.

A farmer Hassan Mubarak said that the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth did its best to protect cow farms in the Sulabiya area. However, the authority did not understand the magnitude of the problem and everyday the number of infected

cows is increasing, he said.

Adel Mahmoud, an official at the Kuwait Dairy Co. has warned of the dangers of drinking fresh milk without boiling it. He said that his company receives fresh milk from farms of the union of the dairy producers and pasteurises the milk at its dairy. He added that all fresh milk in the local market is free of any virus or bacteria.

Hygiene

Cow farms in Sulabiya area were infected by the disease in February 1988, according to Abdul Rahman Oudah. He added that cows of these farms are vaccinated four times a year, but they have developed no immunity against the disease.

Dr Sultan Ahmed, the director of the Animal Health Department, said that isolation and treatment of infected cows has been an on-going process. Slaughtering of some infected cows has also been instituted.

The disease can be prevented and halted by not permitting live animals from the infected areas to mingle with cows from other farms and using the best and most hygienic methods to keep farms clean.

Ahmadi schools to celebrate National Day

KUWAIT, Feb 4, (KUNA): Schools in Ahmadi Governorate are to take part in the country's National Day celebrations.

Director of Education at the governorate Abdulla Al Luqman told KUNA that the schools in the area will take the opportunity to honour outstanding students.

He said the governorate is also preparing for holding a sports tournament in Wafra this month

and the Ahmadi festival next month.

Luqman said activities of the two festivals include scientific, sports and cultural contests.

He added that ten new schools will be opened in the new academic year due to population increase in the area.

There are 150 schools in Ahmadi governorate in addition to 22 kindergartens.

Filipino blinded in Sea Isle City attack awarded \$1.2 million

MIAMI, Feb 4, (AP): A Filipino sailor blinded when an Iranian missile hit the reflagged Kuwaiti tanker he was serving on has been awarded a \$1.2 million judgement against the government of Iran.

Victoriano Gonzaga's wife also was awarded damages of \$500,000. The judgements were handed down earlier this week by US District Judge Thomas E. Scott after hearings in which the Iranian government did not make any appearances.

According to the suit, Gonzaga was serving aboard a US-flagged Kuwaiti vessel, the Sea Isle City, when it was struck on Oct 16, 1987, by a missile fired from an Iranian launch.

Gonzaga, 32 at the time of the incident, was hospitalised in Miami but has since returned to the Philippines, according to his attorneys, Charles R. Lipcon and George Pedraza of Miami, who brought the suit on his behalf.

In addition to Iran, defendants

named in the suit were Kuwait Oil Tanker Co., Kuwait Petroleum Corp., Glen Eagle Ship Management Inc. and Chesapeake Shipping Inc. The US Federal Court had jurisdiction over the suit because the defendants together carry on more than \$3 billion worth of business in the United States.

The suit charged that the defendants knowingly endangered Gonzaga because "to reach Kuwait the vessel must run a 550-mile gauntlet that includes Chinese-made silk worm surface-

Provision for five million passengers annually

Kuwait airport to be expanded

A STUDY has been prepared by an international consultant for the expansion of Kuwait International Airport, according to Minister of State for Service Affairs, Issa Al Mazidi.

The expansion has been designed to accommodate about five million passengers per annum and will meet the country's needs up to 2005 AD, the official said.

Provisions for financing this project will be included in the Ministry of Public Works budget for the fiscal year 1989-1990. The first stage of the project will be implemented within four years.

Mazidi said that new government projects will also include

expansions at the Shuwaikh and Shuaiba ports. A new telecommunication tower will be constructed at the Shuwaikh port. Expansion of the customs inspection area and the re-organisation of the current container terminal and a new main gate will also be undertaken.

New premises for Shuaiba Port's administration will also be constructed. Additionally, a new building for the containers department will be constructed which will be similar to that at Shuwaikh Port. A new store will also be built at Shuaiba, the official said.

Training courses in the field of marine pollution, navigation,

radar and organising shipping movements will be provided, he added.

The Ports Complex Project currently underway will be completed within the fourth quarter of this year. The complex will contain all buildings and departments of the Public Ports Authority, Mazidi said.

He praised the efforts exerted by Kuwait's Ministry of Interior on the security aspect at Kuwait's International Airport.

Mazidi concluded by stating that several meetings were held among GCC Civil Aviation officials to enhance co-operation in all spheres of aviation.



Issa Al Mazidi

Fifth Perfumes and Cosmetics Exhibition opens

By Lima Al Khalafawi

RASHID Abdullah Al Mejriri, the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for Commercial Affairs, opened the Fifth Perfumes and Cosmetics Exhibition at Mishrif Fairgrounds yesterday.

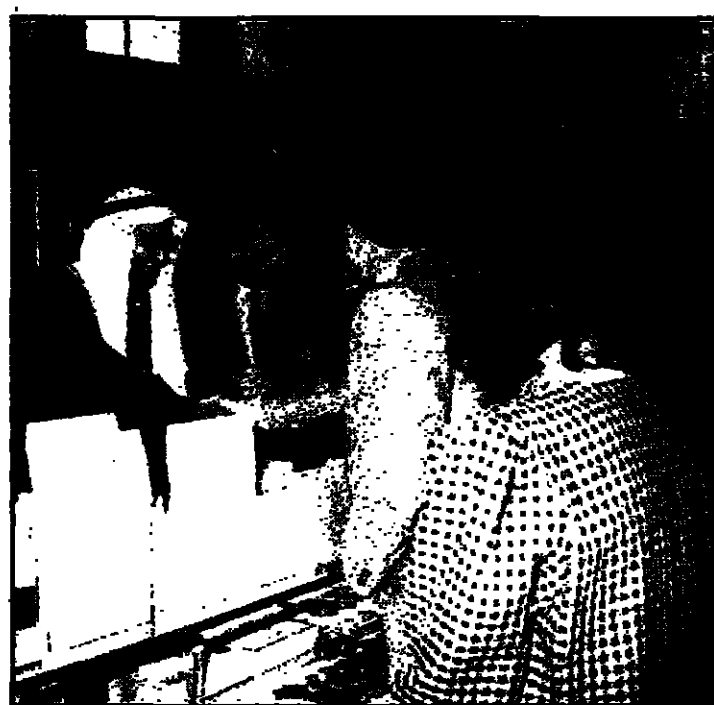
During the opening of the exhibition, Mejriri said that the ministry encourages the promotion of such exhibitions to provide a boost to business. The ministry directly supervises market movements, he added.

The exhibition provided an avenue for retail merchants and consumers to familiarise themselves with the latest products in the market.

Inspection

Fixing of prices for all items were co-ordinated between the ministry and the companies. Representatives from the ministry's Consumers Protection Department inspected the various stalls to ensure that prices were maintained during such exhibitions, the official said.

A total of 67 companies participated in this promotion and marketing event. This figure represented a 25 per cent increase over the number of participants



Mejriri (second right) greeting a cosmetics company representative at the Perfumes and Cosmetics Exhibition at Mishrif Fairgrounds.

at last year's exhibition. Additionally, four foreign companies from Thailand, Bahrain, UK and Hungary participated in this year's display.

In a sophisticated display of items, 170 commercial brands and other new products were on

show. These included a wide range of stronger perfumes preferred by locals and Arabs. Natural care herbal products were quite in demand among women. Hair, face and body protection creams and lotions were the most popular items.

Accessories and costume jewellery were high on the purchase list. These items are in demand as women who cannot afford to buy real jewellery are quite happy to wear exquisite imitations. These items hand-somely crafted in copper, plastic, leather and gold or silver plated range in prices from KD1 to KD120.

Exercise equipment generally seen in beauty health clubs and saloons were sold at competitive prices compared to those available in the market, according to a knowledgeable lady.

Perfumes and cosmetics promoted in this exhibition will provide a boost to this business in Kuwait, according to an expert beautician of 15 years' experience in Kuwait.

Visitors can see the wide range of cosmetics, perfumes, jewellery and allied items at the exhibition daily from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm until Feb 10.

Border centres will help reduce smuggling — Qabazard

THE new border centres to be established soon, will positively contribute towards ending the smuggling of goods and vehicles across the border, said Col. Abdul Amir Qabazard, director of the Overland Transport Control Department.

The project when operational, will prevent cargo-carrying vehicles from entering the country.

He said that the existing procedures of the truck convoy escorting system had been successful in reducing the number of smuggling operations. Out of 77,000 vehicles entering the

country last year, only 4 attempted to smuggle contraband. One contraband load of hashish and the other three were contraband items. The existing system worn-out transport vehicles often broke-down inside the country. Most drivers spoke neither English nor Arabic and always had little money to pay for repairs causing problems, he said.

Last year, 29,561 vehicles entered the country through Nuwaiseeb check-point and 26,332 through Abdali, the official said.

Special programmes being developed for Kuwait inmates

THE Director-General of the General Department of Enforcement and Jails, Col. Fahd Al Yaseen told a local daily that there were a total of 1,350 prisoners in Kuwait jails. Of these, 130 were women housed at the women's jail and 221 in Doha jail.

Special rehabilitation programmes are constantly being developed for inmates which are on par with the most

advanced jails in the world. Special nursing, educating and social instructing staff are hired to supervise the implementation of these programmes, the official said.

The department is constantly being developed and five more divisions have been added to handle enforcement, follow-ups and tracking down of escaped convicts in the five governorates of the country, Yaseen said.



Yesudas and Sujatha at last night's press conference. (Photo by Amr Jaded)

Yesudas arrives for concert

By Fathima Ahmed

NOTED Indian singer Yesudas arrived in Kuwait yesterday afternoon to give two concerts at the Granada Cinema on Feb 8 and 9.

Yesudas, talking to reporters at the Holiday Inn Hotel, said he is recovering from a throat infection which had forced him to postpone his shows, scheduled for Jan 26/27 in Kuwait.

Yesudas said this week's concerts will be his first performance after his illness. He said: "I've come to Kuwait because I had made a commitment and wanted to honour it."

A majority of tickets for the Yesudas show have been sold. A spokesman for the organisers said those who hold tickets for

Jan 26 are eligible to attend the concert on Feb 8, tickets for the Jan 27 show will be honoured on Feb 9. The show on Feb 8 will begin at 7.45 pm and on Feb 9 at 6.30 pm.

The spokesman said the shows could not be held on Thursday and Friday, as originally scheduled, due to Yesudas' commitments in India. Yesudas is scheduled to perform in Trivandrum and in other cities in India.

Yesudas is accompanied by female vocalist Sujatha Mohan and his 10-year-old son Vijay. He had been inadvertently reported earlier that Chitra would be accompanying the singer.

The spokesman said: "Those who have been inconvenienced by the changes can contact the organisers at Tel 4742000 ext 823 for required assistance."

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17:00 — 20:00
Thursday
9:00 — 12:30

Communications Ministry plans new services

THE Ministry of Communications is planning to provide post office boxes for each house in selected areas of Kuwait, according to Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub, the ministry's undersecretary.

The official said that mail delivery will be via computers and will contribute towards better service with fewer staff.

Particular attention is being paid to ascertain that no erroneous telephone bills are sent to subscribers. However, any subscriber receiving such bills should complain to the ministry. Remedial action will promptly follow, the official said.

He added that the ministry has acquired new equipment to monitor any attempts at illegal eavesdropping by the ministry's technical staff of subscriber's lines.

The ministry is also planning to introduce a number of new services which include amongst others the packet switch communication, videotext, and the magnetic card calling system. Additionally, more exchange offices will be provided at densely populated areas such as Farwaniya, Riqqa and others.

Equipment

The new magnetic cards will be available to the public at the ministry's various buildings at prices ranging from KD10, five and three. Equipment for operating

Donation drive in Kuwait to help rebuild Faw

KUWAIT, Feb 4, (Reuters): Kuwaiti welfare groups launched a drive today to raise money to reconstruct Iraq's war-ravaged city of Faw, occupied for two years by Iranian troops.

"This campaign will help to rebuild this city which is ... a symbol of Arab steadfastness against aggression," Abdullah Al Rusheid, president of the fund-raising committee, told Reuters.

Iraq recaptured Faw, just across the border from Kuwait, last April in the first of a series of offensives which pushed back Iranian troops and led to a ceasefire in the eight-year-long war last August.

Kuwait accused Iran of firing Silkorm missiles at its oil installations from Faw, one of which shut down its main Gulf oil export terminal in October 1987.

Officials said people in Kuwait had already donated about 2.5 million dollars to the Faw fund and Rusheid said 20,000 posters had been put up seeking more money.

The campaign, to include performances by Iraqi folklore troupes, had the backing of 20 welfare associations and the Kuwait Finance House, an Islamic financial institution.

Good behaviour primary objective of education

DR Basheer Al Rasheedi, a professor at the College of Education at the University of Kuwait has said that the education system's primary objective in the Arab world is to encourage the development of better behavioural patterns in individuals, cultivate their different skills and enrich their knowledge.

Speaking at a lecture at the Kuwait Teachers Society he said that the education system should regularly be evaluated to ensure

the fulfilment of the basic objectives of the educational process.

He added that these objectives were mainly embodied in the development of a strong sense of responsibility and self-expression, through the holding of a series of discussions aimed at upgrading the students positive argumentative skills, and encourage intellectual thinking in them. This is essential to foster good individuals who will positively contribute to enhancing the overall development process, the professor said.

Iraqi planes assisted in fighting locusts, says official

IRAQI planes assisted in the locust fighting process recently conducted at Al Wafra and Al Abdali areas, according to a senior government official.

In an interview with a local daily, Jasssem Al Bader, the Director of Botanical Resources Department at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources and chairman of the Locusts Fighting Committee said that air strips were allocated at Al Abdali and Al Wafra areas for conducting the operations.

Locust swarms had invaded the country on Jan 22 from Saudi Arabia and the pests menaced most of the Wafra farms within an area of 25 — 30 square kilometres.

About 13 squads of fighting teams comprising 300 men mobilised and treated the area with anti-locust sprays assisted by planes. The operation proved successful, the official said.

The official added that new swarms of locusts are expected to invade the country in the forthcoming months. The swarms are expected to arrive from Saudi Arabia.

About 7,000 litres of insecticides had been used in the operation and the agriculture department had been provided with three planes equipped with the latest equipment for eradicating locusts, the official said.

He called on farmers to co-operate with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources — particularly by isolating animals from areas sprayed by insecticides.

Kuwait co-operative movement has developed steadily

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Abdullah Ghiloom has praised the steady development and progress made by the co-operative movement in the country.

In a lecture on the role of the movement in the national development process, he said that the ministry has been attempting to get the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training to establish a special study course on co-operative activities at the Institute for Commercial Studies.

He said that this was intended to provide the co-operative societies with a source of qualified manpower.

He warned against the spread of supermarkets which offered their commodities at reduced prices far below the going price in co-operative societies, adding that this competition could have

unfavourable results on the course of action pursued by the co-operative movement.

Reviewing the achievements of the co-operative movement, he said that these included health, religious, social and other services, besides providing the necessary protection for consumers, through combatting high prices and rationalisation of spending.

Ghiloom said that the existing co-operative societies provided 70 per cent of total consumer needs and services, and that the total value of sales by the co-operatives over 1987 was KD475 million, and the total net profit was KD8.3 million.

He added that out of 170,000 members of the consumer co-operative societies Kuwaitis constitute the greatest percentage, and that out of 45 co-operative societies, 39 were consumer societies.

Traffic accidents

TWO men were killed by speeding cars in separate incidents on the Sixth Ring Road and Riyadh Street yesterday. There were 17 traffic accidents in the country which resulted in injury to 11 persons including three children.

New Kuwaiti graduates hired in public sector

THE Civil Service Commission has permitted some ministries and government establishments to recruit new administrative and technical personnel from the new batch of Kuwaiti graduates, according to a reliable source.

All investigators appointed to police centres should be law graduates. Those who have no law qualifications and presently employed at these posts will gradually be shifted to other departments.

Graduates of the faculties and training centres of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training will be appointed at ministries of Communications, Electricity and Public Works, the source said.

Optometry symposium

KUWAIT, Feb 4, (KUNA): The third Kuwait International Symposium for Optometry and Eye Surgery opened its first session here today.

Secretary-General of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations Dr Abdullah Al Rifai who opened the session on behalf of the minister of health said the symposium comes within the framework of the institute's efforts in the fields of science transfer and upgrading of qualifications of optometrists.

The four-day symposium will discuss eye inflammation, diagnosis and treatment.

Yugoslav leader visits Iraq

BAGHDAD, Feb 4, (AP): Yugoslav President Rade Dzedarevic arrived today on a several-hour visit and talks with Iraqi officials, embassy officials said.

The officials said he will hold talks with President Saddam Hussein on bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Middle East and issues related to the Non-Aligned Movement.

Saudi aircraft company to be operational mid 1989

THE Aircraft Accessories and Components Company's (AACC) purpose built facility, situated in close proximity to the King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will become operational mid 1989.

The AACC will provide comprehensive overhaul and repair support throughout the Middle East for commercial, military and executive aircraft, including helicopters, com-

mencing with hydraulic and mechanical equipment, pumps, motors, actuators, etc., together with propellers and electrical machines including CSDs, generators and motors.

The capability will be enhanced progressively to embrace the full spectrum of airframe and power-plant accessories and components, and associated ground support equipment.

GOING PLACES

Boyer wins applause at IAC

By Peter D'Souza

GOAN dramatist M. Boyer's highly acclaimed drama *Ekuch Kazar* (Only One Marriage) convinces viewers to be faithful to their wives. The play was performed before a packed audience at the IAC on Friday.

The tragedy with comic overtones conveys the message that it is a good idea to "be true to your wife even if you can explore greener pastures."

The play revolves around Conrad (Mike Mehta), a happily married businessman and his marriage experiences. The plot develops after Valerie (Felcy) joins the firm as a secretary. Conrad, who has a roving eye, promptly falls in love with Valerie and deserts his wife Sonia (Betty Naz) to marry the secretary. Conrad also resigns from his job to avoid family pressure.

Folly

It is at this point that the playwright talks about marital bliss and the folly of betrayal. The initial happiness doesn't



Liberate (Platida) scolds her husband (M. Boyer) for following girls, in the drama *Ekuch Kazar*.

last long as Valerie starts blaming Conrad for living "at my cost." And it is too late by the time Conrad realises his folly. The play ends on a tragic note with Conrad repenting for his past mistakes and realising that he is unable to make amends.

The tragedy was offset by light-hearted comedy provided by Boyer, who plays the naive husband of Liberate (Platida), and gets into several impossible

situations. Boyer's punchy dialogue had the audience rolling with laughter. His song, a satire on Indian sports, received much applause with requests for encores.

Actors Joe Rose, Platida and Mike Mehta did justice to their roles. The others in the cast were Sabina, Josephine, Rosario Dias and Rosary Ferns, who also made a good impression.

In between the six-act play, singers Rod Jr., Marcelin de Betim, Felcy, Cajetan-Marcus-Xavier provided a musical interlude, singing highly appreciated songs.

Singers Felcy and Betty Naz also released their first audio cassette during the performance. Joe Rose's recordings were promoted at the IAC.

M. Boyer told the audience that he will return to Kuwait in November this year to stage another drama called "Chintna Zalim Sopna" (Thoughts Turn to Dreams). He will be accompanied by another popular dramatist-cum-comedian Jacint Vaz, he added.

The drama *Ekuch Kazar* was presented by the New Goans Overseas Association.



Joe Rose (right) gives his son Conrad (Mike Mehta) and his daughter-in-law Sonia (Betty Naz) some advice on married life.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT: THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Arabian Gulf St.
Tarek Rajab Museum
SAT: THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Saudi House
SAT: THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Ghadi Gallery
Until Feb. 9: "The Orient in their Eyes", a collection of works by a group of Arab and European painters will be shown at the gallery. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Iwan Gallery
Exhibition of lithographs by three 19th century Orientalists. Open from 9 am to 1 pm, 5 to 9 pm, at the gallery located in Zahra Complex, Salmiya.

Kuwait Society for Formative Arts
Until Feb. 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players Auditions
FEB 5, 7 pm at Messilah Beach Hotel: Kuwait Players will hold auditions for two of their coming productions. (1) The Great Celestial Cow, a comedy with music, about an Indian family adapting to their new life in England; directed by Mike Conden (2) When Did You Last See Your Trouser?, a British farce, directed by Mike Johnston. Indians particularly welcome for the first production. For details ring Maloolm Walker — 3624111 ext. 716.

EXHIBITIONS

Children's Books of the Year '88
UNTIL FEB 16: An exhibition of British books for children, written by award-winning writers and illustrators, will be held at the British Council, Mansouriya.

The programme is as follows: FILMS: Feb 8 (6 pm): Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (cartoon); Feb 15 (6 pm): The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (cartoons).

STORYTELLING SESSION: A professional storyteller will conduct the sessions. Feb 9/16 (9.30 - 10.30 am) a session for children — aged seven to 10; (11 am-12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.

All are welcome. Free admission. But it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2545542; 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

German-Speaking Ladies Association
FEB 5: 10 am. The regular coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Newcomers are particularly welcome.

FLASSIK
FEB 10: 6 pm: The Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait, FLASSIK, will hold the 1989 Valentines Ball at the Holiday Inn's Al Afrah Ballroom.

Kuwait Rondels
FEB 16: The Kuwait Rondels Grand Ball '89 will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact: Tel: 5337597.

Gayathri Arts
FEB 25: 10 - 5 pm. The Gayathri Arts organisation for Arts and Sports will hold a social event to celebrate the Nehru centenary. Indoor games and competitions will be held at the Indian embassy hall.

Kuwait Welsh Society
MARCH 1 (Wednesday): St. David's Day buffet-dance will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel at 8 pm. Tickets — KD6. For reservations phone 371-3467.

SPORTS

Five-a-Side Football
FEB 17: The Weekend Club will hold their first annual five-a-side football tournament at Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day. For entry forms contact M. Dias (Off.) 2460983.

Laser Sailing
FEB 10: Messilah Beach Laser Club's spring series continues this Friday. Feb 16/17: Messilah Beach open meeting; four race events over two days. All Laser sailors wishing to participate in the above events please contact David Clark: 4845171/2425947; P. Shepherd — 4841513/5314957; P. Berry — 3924174.

Tivim Centre
MAR 5: The Tivim Centre will hold its second annual one-day seven-a-side football festival at Al Sour Grounds. This will be followed by their second inter-village nine-a-side football tournament, beginning April 8. For details contact organisers.

Mini Rugby
Training and games every Friday at the Ahmadi ground; training starts at 10 am and mini-rugby finishes at 11.30 am. For details call Hugh McAree — 532-6368 or Geoff Bennett — 533-2683.

Computers can save Arab music from decline

PARIS, Feb. 4, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti musician has urged the Arab world to use computers to save Arab music from further decline.

Dr Yasien Seif of Kuwait's Higher Institute of Music has said computerisation will enable the Arab world to overcome the main difficulties facing the development of music in the region.

Speaking at a seminar at the Arab Music Academy's 11th convention in Paris, Dr Seif said the main obstacle for contemporary Arab musicians was the insufficient knowledge about orchestration. There is also a shortage of musicians and the lack of skilled sound engineers, he said.

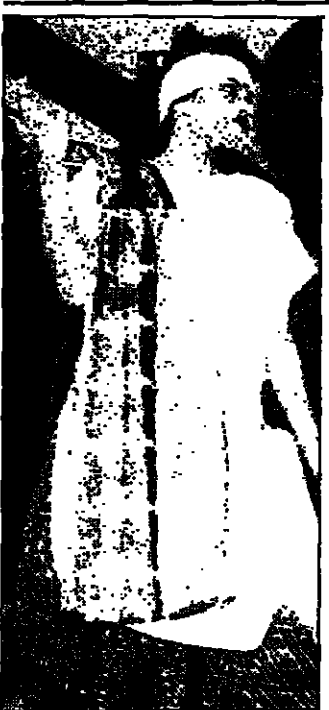
Seif said: "The problem of contemporary Arab music is

not in its format but is mainly in the quality of performance."

Seif, a graduate of the University of Southern California, said he has developed a computer programme to teach Arab tunes to students in Kuwait. He said the technique was applied to teach American students the basics of Arab music.

He believes that the use of computer, which provides numerous tunes, assists musicians to become more creative and improves their individual training "simply because the machine never gets tired."

Musicians in the US, Europe and Japan link their computers to sound synthesizers to write music and can listen to their compositions immediately.



Ivy models a black and white ensemble with overlapping trousers.

Rich colours offset black 'n' white mood

A PROFUSION of colour was evident at Holiday Inn's Diamond Club fashion show held last week. Rich colours ranging from fuchsia pinks and magentas to yellows and blues offset the abundance of black and white, the colours in fashion, used by Indian designer Tapati Ray.

Ray showed a selection of 44 dresses, divided into the Indian and Western sections, with an accent on oriental and exotic colours and fabrics. The fabrics used for casual and evening wear ranged from rich silks to brocades. Cottons and other fabrics were also used.

The designs basically followed the dictates of other fashion modes with ruffles, skirts and trousers and pouffe ball skirts and slim-waist jackets.

The clothes were modelled by Sharmila, Aber, Angela, Arlene, Mina, Raeda, Sayeda, Francesca, Ivy and Mildred. More than 400 people attended the Diamond Club show.



Mildred shows a rich brocade dhoti-kurta ensemble.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 World News via Satellite
10.00 Abna's Al Diyab: Arabic serial: Starring: Jamil Awadh, Juliet Awadh, Ruki Al Safdi, Iman Kamel.
10.50 News Summary/Good Morning
11.00 Al Daeel: local Arabic serial: starring Mohammad Al Manes, Ayesha Ibrahim
12.00 Believe it or Not!
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran/Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Cartoon serial
5.15 Tum Tek and Children

5.30 Thousand and One Nights
6.00 Liqa Fi Al Zakira: historical serial: starring Fakhry Al Akidi, Fawzi Mahdi, Nizar Al Samara.
7.00 News Summary
7.15 Noor Al Islam
7.30 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabt; poetry session
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.30 Al Jawaaher: Arabic serial: starring Safa Abul Saud, Salah Saadani, Yusuf Shaban, Mohsina Tawfiq.
10.50 Musical Interlude: part of variety show
12.30 News Summary
12.35 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial
6.30 The Owl: documentary. Children are

involved in community work.
7.00 Scientific Eye: examines "body temperature."
7.30 The Pursuit of Happiness: Dave is 30. Does he celebrate his birthday? Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Call Me Mister: "Frozen Assets." Jack is hired to find the men who robbed a house.
9.40 Dive to Adventure: examines the wealth of life at sea.
10.00 What's Happening Now: "Shirley's Pen Pal." Shirley's pen pal pays a visit.
10.30 Best-Seller: "The Lancaster and Miller Affair." Part 2.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine: D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
30 Composer of the Month (ex 12th Play of the Week: Moliere)
0100 News Summary (ex 12th) followed by Play of the Week: 5th Edition: 12th Moliere contd.: 19th Philoctetes; 26th King of Priam.
0200 World News
09 British Press Review (ex 25th)
15 The Picture of Dorian Gray
30 The Ken Bruce Show
0300 World News
09 News About Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Quiz: Unquote (ex 26th)
0400 Newsdesk
30 From Old Time to New Country
45 Worldbrief
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial Review
45 Words of Faith
45 Letter from America
0600 Newsdesk
30 Jazz for the Asking
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary

Summary
30 From Our Own Correspondent
45 Book Choice
30 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Nature Now
30 Financial Review
39 Book Choice
45 W 8 Years: Readings from the Poems
1000 News Summary followed by Science in Action
30 In Praise of God
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Composer of the Month (ex 12th Play of the Week: Moliere)
1200 News Summary (ex 12th) followed by Play of the Week: 5th Edition: 12th Moliere contd.: 19th Philoctetes; 26th King of Priam
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 Worldbrief
1400 News Summary followed by Phone-In
1500 Newsdesk
15 International Recital

1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 5th Feature: 12th Glorious Revolution; 19th Feature: 26th Poncher's Trail
45 Letter from America
1700 World News
09 Book Choice
15 Jazz for the Asking
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsdesk
30 In Praise of God
1900 News Summary followed by News Summary
15 A Question of Science
2000 World News
09 Worldbrief
25 Words of Faith
30 My Music (ex 5th Novel Ideas contd.)
2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
15 The Picture of Dorian Gray

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behtereen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Geet Kahani
2100 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Youn Mir Youn Helu (Arabic)
Starring: Faten Hamama, Mohammad Muncer
Al Salmiya
Al Zalzal (Arabic play)
Al Hamra
Shaitan Yaghna (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Bost
Drive-In
Bini Min Dahab (Arabic)
Starring: Shireen, Ahmad

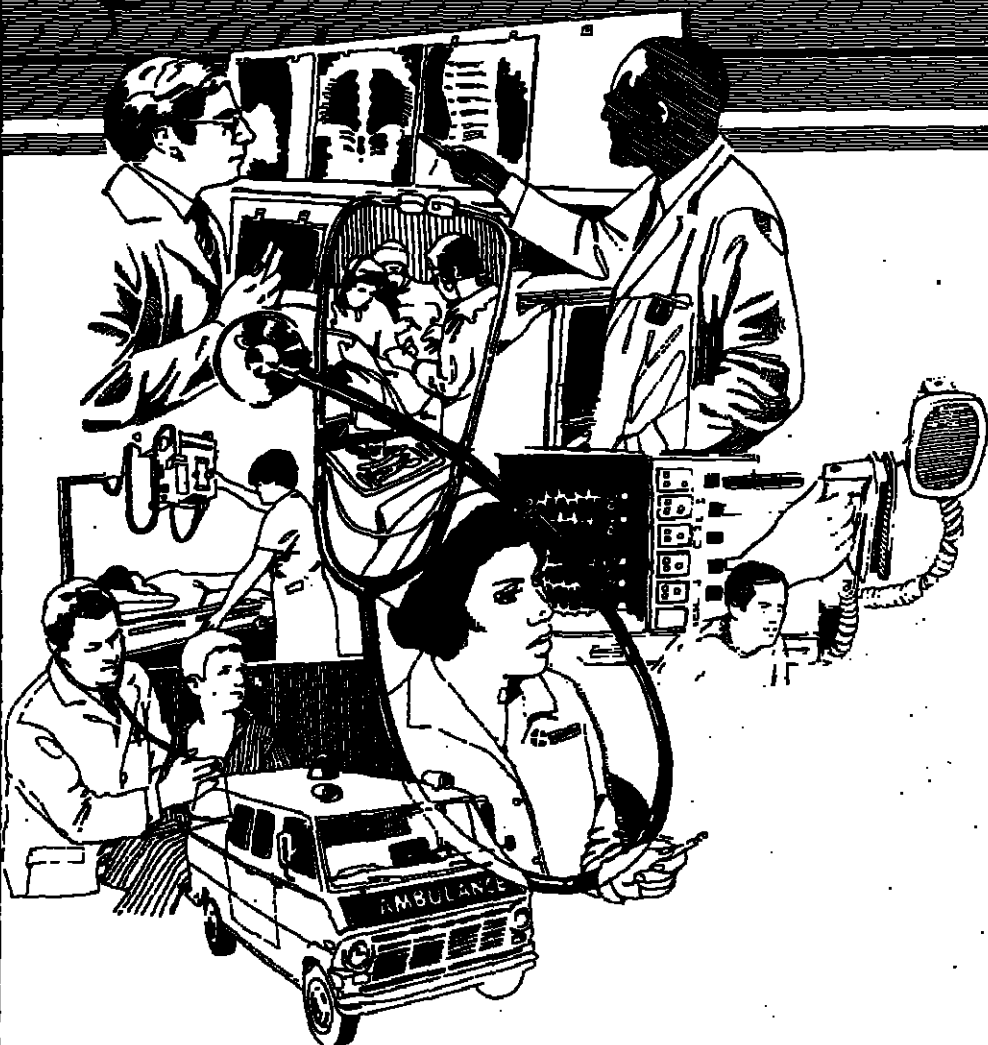
Rateb, Mahmood Jundi
Al Firdous
Zameen Aasman (Hindi)
Starring: Sunjay Dutt, Anita Raj
Al Fahadhel
Deadly Friend
Al Jahra
Aatish (Hindi)
Granada
Kabzaa (Hindi)
Sulabikhat
The Count of Monte Cristo

Fahadhel Open-Air
Kaun Kitney Paani Mein (Hindi)
Al Jeeb
Project "A"
Ahmadi Drive-In
Combat Killer

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.14 am
Zuhr 12.02
Asr 3.08 pm
Maghreb 5.30
Isha 6.49

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A four-day conference covering all aspects of head surgery, presented in co-operation with the Department of Health, Government of Dubai, will be held simultaneously with the exhibition at the Dubai International Trade Centre's conference theatre.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

REVENGE does us more harm than the injury itself —
John Lubbock, English astronomer-mathematician
(1803-1865).

China's guesthouse radiates luxury

By David Butts

BEIJING, (AP): US President George Bush, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Britain's Prince Charles have at least one thing in common — all will sleep in the same bed this year at China's government guesthouse for the rich and famous.

Bush, who arrives on Feb 25, will be the first of the three to stretch out on the king-size bed in the poshest of the Diaoyutai state guesthouse's 15 presidential suites.

Gorbachev, expected to visit Beijing this spring for the first Chinese-Soviet summit in 30 years, and Charles, scheduled to visit on Nov 1 with his wife, Diana, are among dozens of heads of state, captains of industry and international VIPs who will stay this year in Diaoyutai's well-guarded, secluded villas.

Diaoyutai, which means "fishing terrace," served as a retreat for Chinese emperors more than 800 years ago. Now, its 40 hectares (100 acres) are covered with pine groves where peacocks wander. Swans glide gracefully across a pond.

From its gold-plated bathroom fixtures and silk-covered walls to its displays of ancient bronzeware and gold cloisonné, Diaoyutai radiates luxury and elitism in a grubby, grey city where egalitarianism so lately was in style.

Ideology seems to stop at the gates to Diaoyutai. Even during the extreme leftist Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, Chairman Mao Tse-tung's wife, Jiang Qing, used to relax between speeches condemning foreign capitalist influence by watching Western movies in Villa No. 17.

China's shifting foreign policy can be charted from the guest lists. In 1959, when the villas were built, most of the guests were socialist sympathisers, including Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai.

By the 1980s, however, the list had changed. American President Richard Nixon, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and US President Ronald Reagan are among the parade of world leaders who have stayed at Diaoyutai. Many held historic talks there with Chinese leaders.

Security. Other hotels in Beijing may be more convenient — guests can come and go more freely. "But we offer quiet and security they can't match."

Security, discretion and connections are the specialties of this hotel run by professional diplomats.

Cheng, 55, and his deputy Sun Guotong, both former counsellors in Chinese embassies

overseas, disclose little about their high-level guests. Asked during a recent visit if Liem was staying at Diaoyutai, Cheng replied, "I haven't heard."

Diaoyutai telephone operators are ordered not to connect calls to guests if the caller doesn't know the room number. The armed police who stand at attention at the compound's gates admit only cars whose licence plates have been cleared in advance.

For the guests, almost anything seems possible. Cheng tells a story of an unidentified guest years ago who wanted water chestnuts during the winter, when they were out of season. The guesthouse sent People's Liberation Army soldiers to a nearby lake to cut through the ice and try to find some, he said.

"Now we wouldn't do that," Cheng said.

Perhaps not, but Diaoyutai still sends its own trucks to the coast to pick up fresh shrimp and has special ingredients flown in from all over the country. It pays 1,000 yuan (\$270) a pound (\$594 per kilogramme) for one rare herb necessary to a special scallop soup.

With that kind of overhead, rates start surprisingly low at \$140 for a standard room. Presidential suites cost \$500 a night.

But the fanciest of the 15 guest villas, No. 12, and No. 18, must be rented in entirety. There is no No. 1 or No. 13, and a third building is used for offices.

The two-storey, 26-room No. 18, which was renovated for Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 1986, goes for \$20,000 a night, although the Chinese government pays for visiting heads of state and other state guests. It recently has been used by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other prominent Indian leaders, including Shree Narayana Guru and Armand Hammer.

Bedrooms

The presidential suite in No. 18 includes separate his-and-her bedrooms and bathrooms, each thickly carpeted and decorated with costly art works. "He" gets an electric massage chair and whirlpool bath; "she" gets a sunken tub with brass rails.

"Yes, we are socialist, but for heads of state you must have such things," Sun said.

To help cover its annual 28-million-yuan (\$7.5-million) budget, Diaoyutai began selectively accepting non-VIP tourists and businessmen in 1980 and opened a club for locally based foreign businessmen last year.

The club, with a \$40,000 membership fee, is intended only for "the leading people," Sun said. Non-VIPs need connections to get a room reservation.

US, Japan may vie for arms market

By Kathy Wilhelm

TOKYO, (UPI): When the icon of American business, Lee Iacocca, recently visited Japan, the nation that repeatedly beats the pants off US businessmen, he cited the defence industry as America's one indisputable area of competitive dominance overseas.

"We do build great products in America — F-16 fighters, super-sonic aircraft, great aircraft carriers and a Star Wars network that will blow your mind," Iacocca said.

There are increasing signs, however, that Japan may someday challenge America in the weapons marketplace.

American defence experts are questioning the wisdom of aiding Japanese companies that may soon be competing against American firms.

Bush must decide how much technology the United States is willing to share with Japan and what Americans should demand in return.

Exchange

The Reagan administration favoured increased technology exchange and recently reached an agreement to allow Japan to develop a new jet fighter based on the General Dynamics F-16 fighter.

For their part, the Japanese will give General Dynamics the technology needed to manufacture an advanced composite material for aircraft wings.

Sweden and Finland well prepared

Protecting citizens from wind-borne poisons

By Gary Thatcher

HELSINKI and Stockholm: There is something decidedly unusual in the parking garage underneath the McDonald's restaurant in downtown Helsinki.

Along the walls, at regular intervals between the parking spaces, are wash basins.

There's also something odd about the Lilla Björn (Little Bear) Child Care Centre in a suburb of Stockholm.

Most of the rooms are open and sunny, but one at the centre of the building has relatively tiny windows, set deep into walls that are more than a foot thick.

These kinds of architectural details are evident in countless buildings across Finland, Sweden, and other Scandinavian countries. They're subtle, and easily missed if you don't know what to look for.

But they have a very specific purpose.

The parking garage and the day-care centre are specially constructed to double as shelters from, among other things, chemical and biological weapons attacks.

Sweden, in particular, has gone an extraordinary step further in protecting its citizenry from wind-borne poisons. The government is well along in a plan to purchase and stockpile a gas mask or protective respirator for every man, woman, and child in Sweden — 8.4 million people.

To that end, Swedish companies have perfected a range of protective devices unparalleled in the world. Among them: special respirators for children and infants.

Protection

Finland, on the other hand, has opted for collective rather than individual protection; it has spaces for 2.6 million people in shelters scattered across the country, each equipped with special air-filtration systems to trap every known chemical and biological warfare agent.

No other country even approaches these two nations when it comes to preparedness.

But other nations are noting the example. Civil defence officials from a number of countries, including China, have visited in the past year. They have toured the shelters, peered through the gas masks — and

come away impressed.

The interest has been a boon to some of the companies that make the specialised protection equipment.

"It's been like this abroad," says Rolf Palmäus, moving his hand in a steep upward arc to indicate the rising interest. Palmäus is product manager for defence products of Sweden's Trelleborg Group, a chief supplier of gas masks to the country's civil defence programme.

He says there's no doubt it's because of the Iran-Iraq war, which saw the most extensive use of chemical weapons since World War I.

Sweden and Finland have their own reasons for taking civilian protection so seriously. Both are neutral nations. Both have openly declared that they possess no chemical or biological weapons, and therefore could not retaliate in kind if attacked with these substances. And they have a long tradition of emphasising civil protection.

Explosion

But the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union underscored the need for protecting against wind-borne poisons. That explosion, at a civilian nuclear reactor in the Soviet Ukraine, rained radioactive particles on vast stretches of Finnish and Swedish territory, causing millions of dollars in damage to agriculture in both countries. It also caused no small alarm among the unprotected civilian populace.

"We had to do a lot of rethinking after Chernobyl... we decided we had to provide more shelter places," says Janne Koivukoski, chief inspector of the rescue department of Finland's Ministry of the Interior.

Although Finland's civil defence plans are centred on nuclear protection, Koivukoski says that in the process of drawing them up, "We've planned a lot for chemical warfare."

All of the nation's civil defence detachments have gas masks. But, as Koivukoski admits, that's only 40,000 to 50,000 people.

"We are planning to get gas masks for every citizen in Finland," he says, "but we don't have the money."

That rules out mass evacuations from contaminated areas.



A father explains to his daughter how a gas mask works.

Instead, the Finnish planning is shifting emphasis to making sure there are shelters near where the people are.

In fact, any dwelling in Finland larger than 3,000 cubic metres must, by law, include a shelter in the basement. The national government reimburses builders or residents for the extra costs incurred to provide such shelters.

In addition, Finnish municipalities are required to provide shelters for anyone in a building without one. The national government budgets some 140 million Finnish marks annually (about \$30 million) to build shelters large enough to serve entire neighbourhoods.

All have activated charcoal air filters and are equipped with overpressure devices that inhibit

the inflow of contaminated air. All are kept ready for use 24 hours a day. And each shelter is fitted with an air lock at the entrance, and decontamination areas to rinse off any person coming from the outside.

In the capital city, Helsinki, 34 large shelters were blasted out of bedrock under the city. Theoretically, they would accommodate 90 per cent of the city's population.

In fact, there are practical problems. The city's population swells during the day by 110,000 commuters, students, tourists, and businesspeople. And while some neighbourhoods have a surplus of shelter space, others suffer from a deficit.

"It will take, I would say, at least 20 years' time" to balance supply with demand across the

city, says Niilo Kohonen, civil defence chief in Helsinki.

In peacetime, civil defence officials make the shelters available for other community activities.

The cavernous 9,000-person rock shelter in the suburb of Kontula is being used as a youth centre. Young people repair autos, do woodworking, or fire ceramics; there are squash courts and weight-lifting rooms below hundreds of feet of solid rock.

Stockholm's Lilla Björn Child Care Centre is another shelter doing double duty.

Though there are few obvious signs of its intended purpose, in the event of conflict, temporary partitions would be knocked down, exposing heavy steel doors. Vents would be sealed up; air filters would be bolted to pre-wired and ducted walls; and an emergency radio would be connected to an outside antenna.

Sweden has taken particular interest in the threat posed by chemical and biological agents in recent years, says Rune Dahlen, head of civilian protection at Sweden's National Rescue Services Board.

The reasons, Dahlen says, are the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, proliferation of these weapons among other countries, and the growing use of toxic chemicals in Sweden's own chemical industry.

Apparatus

In 1982, the Swedish parliament decreed that every citizen have an emergency breathing apparatus in 10 years' time. That goal will be missed by two years, but every child will have a device two years before the deadline, Dahlen says.

Already 5.6 million of 7.2 million adult Swedes have gas masks, as do 160,000 of the nation's 330,000 children, and 10,000 of the 100,000 infants.

To meet the need, manufacturers had to come up with five sizes of masks.

Fitting growing, active children presented a particular problem. The solution was a protective cloak with a respirator in a coiled overgarment. A special "baby lift" has been created for infants; resembling a clear-plastic basinet, it has a zipper hood and a battery-powered gas filter.

These breathing devices are

kept at special depots, and would be distributed in the event of need.

Civil defence authorities have also trained roughly half the country's 600 rescue platoons to work in a chemically contaminated environment; the rest are slated to undergo training.

Still, in the event of a chemical weapons attack, the contamination of facilities would be very difficult to manage, says Björn Ekengren, a civil engineer at the Rescue Services Board.

Sweden has also stockpiled certain vaccines in the event of a clandestine attack with biological weapons. But officials admit that a surprise attack involving biological or even the most elementary of chemical agents — mustard gas — might wreak havoc, especially if it occurred along with a conventional artillery attack. The country's medical facilities would likely be overwhelmed, and medical personnel might not know what kind of treatment to administer.

Problem

"To be frank," says Dr. Karl Axel Norberg, medical director of the emergency and disaster planning division of the National Board of Health and Welfare, "we'd have a problem dealing with burn patients, let alone the kind of (mustard gas) victim. The state of medical knowledge is fairly low."

"We've recognised the need, and we're working in the field," he says.

But money is an ever-present problem.

Health officials asked parliament for 330 million kronor yearly (about \$33 million) for emergency civilian medical protection supplies, equipment, and training, says Jan Hjelmstedt, an official in the emergency and wartime planning division of the Health and Welfare Board. They got 220 million (about \$36 million).

"Of course, I would have to say that isn't enough," Hjelmstedt says.

Still, research has found that even unlimited funds wouldn't provide all the answers.

"If an aggressor uses these agents against a civilian population," Dr. Norberg says, "that population can never be fully protected."

The Christian Science Monitor

Iran's future at crossroads

By Eric Hall

DUBAI, (Reuters): "I come from Iran, the birthplace of the most acclaimed and... least known revolution of the contemporary period."

So said Iranian President Ali Khamenei to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, in 1987.

Now, 10 years after exiled leader Ayatollah Khomeini returned in triumph to Tehran on Feb. 1, 1979, the future of the Islamic Revolution is as cloudy as its past.

Analysts of the revolution from around the world agree that the ceasefire last Aug 20 in the war with Iraq will force Iran's leaders to decide on their future, a decision held in abeyance during the eight years of hostilities.

Most are convinced this will be difficult. Iran's leaders are divided amongst themselves over their revolution's future and Khomeini as supreme leader has so far declined to favour any group with his obvious approval.

Defence

Impassioned government calls to defend the Islamic Revolution and the fatherland which concentrated the minds of the mass of the Iranian people on winning the war, have eased.

"The knife of political extremism was kept sharp by the war and the honing blade was the blood of the Iranian people," said US professor James Bill from William and Mary College at a conference in London to mark the revolution's anniversary.

No one is sure how the Iranians will react now that concerns about food, clothes and housing are uppermost in their minds.

"Now (the leaders) have to be active not reactive to affairs in order to tackle reconstruction, but they cannot because they are divided," said Bager Mo'in, a biographer of Khomeini.

"The challenges debated today have been there all along but because of the war have been delayed," Mahmoud Sariogh-alam, a professor at Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University, said.

Darius Homaayun, a cabinet minister under the late Shah of Iran, wrote in a recent article: "Although opposed to the regime, many Iranians stood by it because of the war."

Khomeini rode a wave of popular opposition to the Shah and channelled it toward his vision of a blueprint for the whole Islamic world, run on strict principles of Islamic justice.

As supreme leader his word

has been law. But in peace he has softened his position and allowed a political debate, the end of which is not yet in sight, the analysts said.

Professor of history Shaul Bakhash, a leading author about the revolution, defines two main areas of debate — how to reconstruct the economy and how much should the government try to impose Islamic ideals on society.

Analysts recognise two major political groups which are struggling for position on these issues. First is Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi and parts of his cabinet who favour more state control in all sectors.

Second is Speaker of the Majlis (parliament) Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a pragmatist who would use private and foreign capital and expertise when necessary.

To their political left and right are a host of other groups all trying to have Khomeini pronounce their doctrine correct.

There are no less than four powerful special councils which can hold up Majlis legislation. Add to these Khomeini's designated spiritual successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.

The number of separate lobbies has prompted some Iranian critics to call for a return to the constitution.

Western diplomats in the Gulf are agreed that no durable

decision can be made without Khomeini's authorisation.

And when the 86-year-old Khomeini disappears from the scene, "the idea that the supreme leader is the final resort will be an untenable claim. No one can exercise his immense authority," said Bakhash.

Early last year Khomeini said the true Islamic government can do anything if it justifies the greater good of Islam. But asked after the war how a good Iranian should act in the current fictional debate, Khomeini replied only that the debate could continue because it was between those whose loyalty to the state was beyond doubt.

This has helped strengthen pragmatist Rafsanjani's hand by undermining the view that traditional Islam holds all the answers for the modern world, said Khalid Bin Sayed, a professor at Queen's College, Canada.

Last October Rafsanjani said the ideal of a united Islam was far distant. "The Muslim need high-mindedness, and this high-mindedness does not exist," he said. However, no analyst quoted seriously believes that the immediate future of Iran would be other than an Islamic one.

One Iranian military expert speculated that the Army or the large, well-armed Revolutionary Guards could intervene in the event of serious divisions between the clerics when Khomeini died, but only in support of one Islamic group or another.



By Barry Schwind

WASHINGTON, (AP): President George Bush's trip to China this month underscores the importance of US relations with the world's largest country, and although the two have no overriding problems, Bush has some serious issues to discuss with the Chinese.

One is the joint effort the United States and China are making to promote reconciliation between South Korea and North Korea. Another is the growing improvement in relations between China and the Soviet Union.

Bush's trip will be the first visit to Beijing by a US chief executive in nearly five years. Former President Ronald Reagan visited the Chinese capital in April 1984.

But while Bush looks to the Far East, stopping also in Japan for Emperor Hirohito's funeral, two other regions where problems are far more pressing have been consigned at least for now to the back burner.

Bush and his top foreign policy advisers, Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, are taking their time about the Soviet Union and the Middle East.

Baker, who is inexperienced in both areas, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his confirmation hearing that he wanted to "review the bidding" in US-Soviet negotiations to reduce long-range nuclear weapons.

Bush cautious on Soviets and Mideast

Baker also said the United States should avoid "a headlong rush" to provide Moscow with loans and credits, which are traditionally a useful tool in improving relations.

Scowcroft has more experience in foreign policy matters, but he too is taking a very cautious approach in dealing with Moscow. He worries that Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev's peace offensive may have as one of its main goals "making trouble within the alliance of Western nations. He is suspicious that Gorbachev's motivation is to buy time to reform the Soviet economy — which is a lot different from approaching Gorbachev primarily as a world leader trying to ease East-West tensions.

"I think the cold war is not over," Scowcroft said in a recent assessment of the superpower relationship. While Bush has not insisted on concessions from Moscow before ascending the summit with Gorbachev, the White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, said Thursday they would meet only "when the time is right."

It's a bit early to make sweeping judgments, but the indications are a slowdown in the reconciliation promoted by Reagan and former Secretary of

State George Shultz after Gorbachev's rise to power in the Kremlin in March 1985.

There is a similar go-slow attitude developing toward the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, which drew serious attention from the Reagan administration toward the end but hardly the concentration trained on Moscow.

Reagan and Shultz, in their final days, broke a 13-year embargo and opened US talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Shultz made five trips to the Middle East in 1988, and while neither the Arabs nor Israelis agreed to negotiations, Shultz left office optimistic about the future.

"There is more diplomatic fluidity now and opportunity there than there's been in some time, he told reporters on his final trip, to Vienna, last week.

Baker, on the other hand, emphasized that "we ought to all be realistic about the prospects for achieving a breakthrough." He also told the Senate Committee "there is no more intractable problem facing us."

Baker was cold about the dialogue with the PLO, suggesting it would be continued only if it proved useful. And he ruled out a Palestinian state, which the Reagan administration also opposed.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1500 — Ludovico Sforza, with aid of German and Swiss mercenaries, recovers Milan from France.
- 1556 — Treaty is signed between France's King Henry II and Spain's King Philip II.
- 1679 — Peace of Nijmegen between Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I and France's King Louis XIV.
- 1781 — Spanish forces capture Minorca Island, off Spain, from Britain.
- 1792 — Tippecanoe, Ind., is defeated in war with British and Hyderabad, cedes half of Mysore to British.
- 1811 — King George III's insanity necessitates British Regency Act whereby Prince of Wales becomes Prince Regent.
- 1818 — United States signs treaties of friendship with Denmark and Portugal.
- 1885 — Congo state is established under Belgium's King Leopold II as personal possession.
- 1917 — Mexico becomes a federal republic of 28 states.
- 1945 — US troops under General Douglas MacArthur enter Manila, Philippines, in World War II.
- 1958 — North Korea proposes withdrawal of all foreign troops from North and South Korea.
- 1962 — France's President Charles de Gaulle calls for independence for Algeria on basis of friendly co-operation with France.
- 1971 — US Apollo 14 astronauts land on moon.
- 1976 — Earthquake in Guatemala takes almost 23,000 lives.
- 1988 — About 200 Arab protesters raise Palestinian flag and hurl rocks at Israeli riot police at holy Islamic site in occupied Jerusalem.

By Georgina Angel

EVERYONE knows the value of vitamins as a source of super-health and well-being.

But little-known minerals have their own part to play and can produce an extraordinary amount of energy and vitality—especially when taken in larger doses than those normally recommended.

And essential minerals are important for beauty and glowing good looks as well as all-round health.

Certain minerals are more well known than others, principally because deficiencies in them cause common illness. Most women know that a lack of iron leads to anaemia and that calcium deficiency causes brittle bones, nails and teeth.

Minerals

But there are many other minerals that are equally essential for good health and beauty, even if they are needed only in tiny amounts. And though the amount contained in food is low we very often ruin what little there is by overcooking food.

To absorb enough minerals, most women would have to eat 3,000 to 4,000 calories a day, when in fact they tend to keep their weight constant by eating 1,500 to 1,700 calories a day. This supports the theory that overweight people are often happier and healthier—their foods are receiving bigger doses of minerals and vitamins simply because the quantity of food they consume contains sufficient amounts of both.

People's need for minerals has increased in recent years with their greater participation in sport. Strenuous activity increases the body's requirement

Look good — by starting a chemical reaction



Try to get enough minerals from your food and drink.

for minerals such as iron and magnesium, a deficiency of which can lead to muscle cramping and heart problems. But it is

The idea of pumping your body full of sulphur, potassium and phosphorus may sound crazy. But with supplements to make up any deficiencies, you could discover a new lease of life, health and vitality.

not advisable to take these in supplement form except under medical supervision.

Overdose

The type of vitamin supplement sold over the counter is not harmful because any excess taken is simply passed out of the body as waste. But minerals can react badly if taken in supplement form. They react with each other and an overdose of one could have the effect of destroying another, causing a deficiency.

Try to get enough minerals from your food, increasing the intake of a certain food if you know it contains a certain mineral that might be of benefit to you—and you can do this when you know exactly where particular minerals are found and what they can do for your health and appearance. They are important for the formation of skin, muscle, blood and nerve cells. They aid the natural regeneration process and help to keep skin firm and young looking.

Like vitamins, minerals are essential in the body. They cause chemical reactions that lead to proper digestion, the absorption of nutrients from food and the production of hormones. And

mineral deficiencies are often the cause of skin and hair problems like dandruff and acne, as well as more serious illnesses. Mood swings, pre-menstrual tension and stress are often thought to be associated with a shortage of minerals.

Prone

A lack of minerals makes people prone to further losses of minerals in a vicious circle. The polluted atmosphere in which most of us live today depletes our bodies of vital minerals and vitamins and it is essential to build up a state of immunity to illness by eating foods containing those nutrients.

Minerals are divided into two categories—macrominerals and micronutrients or trace elements. The first category is needed to sustain life and needed in higher amounts than the second category. Micronutrients are found in the body in the tiniest amounts, but are equally important for health and beauty.

Microminerals

Calcium

Calcium is the mineral most needed by the body as it is essential for a number of the body's major functions: cell renewal, growth, skin healing and healthy bones and teeth all require calcium. It also aids the absorption of other nutrients from food and is said to build up resistance to pollution from the environment. It is found in dairy products, nuts, grains, seeds and sardines.

Magnesium

This aids the digestion of the food. Without it, the complicated chemical reaction that occurs every time you eat could not occur. It is also needed for healthy bones and skin and has a lot to do with good, firm muscle, tone and a sound heart. It is often used in the treatment of skin disorders. It is found in such fruits as apples, lemons and grapefruit and in celery, sweetcorn and rice.

Phosphorus

This mineral is a woman's best



Strenuous activity increases the body's requirements for minerals.

friend because of the effect it has on "female disorders." It encourages the secretion of certain hormones which can alleviate premenstrual tension and stress, and it is said to make periods lighter and less painful and helps the body to dispose of wastes which can reduce the problem of water retention. It also helps control skin problems such as dryness, acne and dermatitis. It is found mainly in citrus fruits but also in meat, fish, whole grains, green peppers and figs.

Sodium

Too much of this mineral causes water retention, often a problem with women, but it is still needed in small amounts. It encourages the proper functioning of the muscular, nervous and

blood systems in the body. It also keeps glands clear of waste and functioning properly. Not necessary as a supplement as there is more than enough in seafood, bacon, poultry and even most processed foods.

Iron

Iron is essential for the formation of red blood cells. It is very common for women and young girls to suffer from a deficiency, so a supplement is often necessary. The symptoms of a deficiency often include extreme restlessness and fatigue, heavy periods and an orange rather than red colour behind the lower eyelid. Iron is necessary for strong hair and nails. It is found in leafy green vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli and spinach, liver, egg yolks, whole grains and seafood.

Selenium

This is an important beauty mineral as it works in conjunction with vitamin E to slow down wrinkling and ageing in the skin and to preserve a firm, well-padded appearance. It also works on the natural immune system in the body, encouraging a resistance to disease and environmental pollution. The digestive system is said to work more efficiently when there is selenium present and it is sometimes used to treat dandruff. It is found in uncooked fruit and vegetables, eggs, garlic, liver and fish.

Iodine

The metabolism of the body depends to a large extent on the thyroid gland, something that can function efficiently only when there is sufficient iodine in the body. Increasing the intake of iodine can sometimes cause weight loss by stepping up the metabolism and an underactive thyroid is very common among people over thirty-five and those who are overweight. The thyroid gland also governs circulation throughout the body. Doses of iodine can also improve the condition of the hair which is dependent on the circulation for its condition. Iodine is found in seaweed, onions, seafood and cod liver oil.

Sulphur

This is the beauty mineral because of its effect on hair, skin and nails. Hair that is lank and dull-looking can perk up surprisingly quickly with doses of sulphur, and an improvement in brittle nails and dry skin can be spotted just as quickly. Many men suffer from a deficiency in sulphur because eggs are the most common source, but they are cutting down on these drastically to avoid high cholesterol levels. Sulphur is also said to help the body resist infection and to aid mental clarity. It is found mainly in eggs, but also in fish, beans, onions and cabbage.

Zinc

Women who are on the Pill often suffer from a deficiency in zinc as the Pill prevents its absorption to a large extent. This can lead to stress and white spots on the nails. A lack of zinc is also thought to be one of the chief causes of stretch marks in women who are overweight or pregnant. Zinc is essential for many of the normal functions of the body such as cell renewal, skin repair, digestion and growth. It is found in seafood, nuts and whole grains, and vegetables that have been grown in soil that is already rich in zinc.

Cleaning tips for jewellery



Without proper care, jewellery gets a little worn.

Water

Lay the pearls out flat on a clean, soft towel. Using a very soft toothbrush, dip the brush in the solution and gently scrub the pearls. Towel dry to absorb moisture.

You also can keep the soft gleam on your pearls by wiping them with soft chamois cloth after each wearing. This removes natural oils and acids deposited by the skin.

Pearl necklaces should be restringed about once a year, depending on frequency of wear.

Wear your opals often, it's a beauty treatment for them, Underwood said. Like pearls, opals are fragile. They tend to pick up moisture from your skin so simply wearing them can keep them glowing. Opals can be cleaned in the same solution as pearls, Underwood said, but use caution.

Use a good, non-abrasive silver polish for sterling silver jewellery.

Toothpaste can brighten your karat gold jewellery. Using a soft bristle brush, gently scrub your karat gold jewellery as you would when brushing your teeth. Follow the brushing by dipping the gold in the same cleaning solution you use for pearls. The toothpaste will leave a film on the gemstones mounted in the piece and therefore must be cleaned off with the solution.

Use a plush-lined box for storing jewellery at home, with a different compartment for each piece of jewellery. Ideally, each piece should be stored separately in a small plastic bag. Do not overstuff by storing more than one piece of jewellery in each compartment—you risk scratching the softer gemstones.

For travel, pack your gemstones and jewellery in small plastic bags or small pouches. Using a see-through bag prevents the risk of inadvertently throwing your gems out, which can happen if you wrap them in facial tissue or napkins.

gems, Underwood cautioned. Consult your jeweller for a list of gems and jewellery that can be safely cleaned with an ultrasonic device. If you use an ultrasonic cleaner, have your jeweller check the stone's settings every six months to ensure against loosening.

Avoid using bleach to clean any type of jewellery. Bleach, chlorine and other chemicals—such as those found in hairspray and perfumes—can damage gemstones and fine jewellery.

1 tablespoon of very mild liquid detergent per cup of warm

Statistics of shame, says UNICEF

Women still dying at childbirth

By Sydney Rubin

PARIS, (AP): More than 1,000 women around the world die daily from pregnancy complications, childbirth or abortions. Experts say many could have been saved.

Each year, 300,000 women die from complications during pregnancy or childbirth, and 200,000 from illegal abortions, according to a study by the United Nations International Children's Education Fund.

The overwhelming majority of the deaths occur in the Third World. And for every woman who dies, at least 10 are permanently handicapped by a complication during pregnancy or childbirth, UNICEF says.

Referring to the numbers as "the statistics of shame," UNICEF notes that female mortality in childbirth is 450 per 100,000 in underdeveloped nations, a rate 15 times higher than in the industrialized world. A week-long meeting in Niamey, Niger, is focussing how to improve those rates. Attending are health ministers and other delegates from 22 African coun-

tries, along with representatives from the World Bank, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and others.

Dr Robert Cook, a senior medical officer in WHO's family health division, told a recent news conference that the number of women dying in childbirth could be cut in half by the end of the century.

Rate

"People forget that in 1930, the childbirth mortality rate in Europe was 350 to 100,000. The French had this problem, the Scandinavians had this problem. Something can be done," he said. A woman's pregnancy-related death means more than the loss of one life. Family life declines, communities suffer. The number of orphans increases, and infants who survive a mother's death often die before their first birthday.

"For every mother that dies, between one and two children may also die," Dr Mark Belsey, WHO's chief of maternal and child health and family planning, said in an interview.

Many specialists on Third World development agree that

women, who work a minimum of 12 to 16 hours a day, hold the key to helping their nations struggle out of poverty.

Women in Africa furnish 80 per cent of what their families eat. In addition to the domestic duties familiar to Western women, they gather firewood, carry water, plant gardens, care for animals and look after children and the elderly.

"It is intolerable that thousands of women die alone, in suffering, when they are in the process of giving life, and that we should do so little to help them," Dr Attiya Inayatullah, a Pakistani official, told a 1987 conference on maternal mortality.

Risk

"Nothing shows better how development has failed than the high mortality rate among pregnant women," Cook said. The Niamey meeting would try to focus attention on the problem and explore how to use limited resources to help pregnant women.

A woman's risk increases with the number of children she produces. Experts say that having fewer children with longer

intervals between births give women time to recuperate. This is especially important in food-short countries where sons often are fed first and most.

UN studies show that family planning information reaches only 1 or 2 per cent of the population in many Third World countries.

Governments, particularly those in Islamic nations, have opposed contraception. Officials say this attitude is gradually changing as countries face economic pressure to limit population growth.

For instance, a recent law change in Niger eliminated a requirement that women have their husband's written permission to obtain family planning advice.

The conference will discuss how to redirect resources to upgrade basic health and prenatal care. Third World women also need access to emergency facilities such as blood, anaesthesia and medical workers who can perform Caesarean sections. "You can't save lives just with education," Cook said. "Countries need to work concrete national plans."

NCR

SAVINGS AND CREDIT BANK ORDERS NCR ATM'S



Mr Yousef Alhouti, General Manager, signing the contract
Mr Abdulla Almkirad, Dp. Manager (right)
Mr Adeeb Sawires, General Manager, NCR (left)
Mr M. Mitri, Sales Manager, NCR
Mr A. Ayad - Account Manager, NCR
Mr D. Chalton - ATM Specialist, NCR, looking on.

The Savings and Credit Bank has ordered the latest Automatic Teller Machines NCR 5084 for its main office and branches.

The new ATMs will offer 24 hours cash dispensing service for the bank's customers. The ATMs will be installed during the second half of 1989.

The Savings and Credit Bank selected NCR after a long and thorough study of NCR offerings and what is available in the market.

Spread of Islam was the most important factor in the development of a gastronomic tradition

Middle Eastern cooking: unity in diversity

By Claudia Roden

GREAT value is attached to cooking in the Middle East. In that world of strong family ties, large clans and women at home, hospitality and gregariousness are deeply entrenched; offering food is the central act in the highly developed art of pleasing.

The cooking is different in every town, every village and indeed in every family. There are rural foods and urban ones, foods which belong to the desert, others which belong to mountain, the plain or the seacoast, nomadic foods and street foods.

Middle Eastern cooking outside the Middle East shows its own variations, too. But there are nonetheless many general characteristics which all these foods, and all the countries, share.

Sensual

It is a very sensual kind of cooking, using herbs, spices and aromatics generously. Certain methods, like skewer cooking over charcoal or long, slow simmering in unglazed covered pots, are typical of the whole region.

All the countries have rice and wheat dishes, stuffed vegetables, pies wrapped in paper-thin pastry, meatballs, thick omelettes, cold vegetables cooked in oil, scented rice puddings, nut-filled pastries, fritters soaked in syrup and many other common elements.

You find raisins with pine nuts everywhere, garnishes of chopped pistachios and almonds, and the same food combinations, such as chick-peas with spinach.

It is a shared history, including that of two great world empires, which has brought unity to the kitchens of the Middle East.

The spread of Islam and the establishment of an enormous Islamic state stretching across Asia, North Africa and the Mediterranean was the most important factor in the development of a gastronomic tradition comparable to that of France and China.

As the state grew, the Arabs brought to each new region their own tastes as well as those of the countries they had already conquered.

Styles of cooking travelled within this vast area with the



Symbols of hospitality: pastries to tempt the palate offered by Lebanese sweetmakers

massive migrations of people; large-scale transport brought into the cities, and even into distant parts of the empire, local produce such as truffles from the desert, olive oil from Syria, dates from Iraq and coffee from Arabia.

Crops such as rice, sugar, eggplants (aubergines) and spinach, originally from outside the state, spread throughout it.

The Abbasid period, from the ninth to the 12th century, when Islam was the most powerful influence in the world and Baghdad was the political and cultural hub of the state, saw great marriages of cooking styles and great refinements in eating habits. A prosperous cosmopolitan ruling elite had emerged whose members led a life of luxury. Everyone — poet, astronomer, physician and prince — took an interest in gastronomy and dietetics. Writings on food were abundant and popular.

The taste for spiced foods and sweet things appeared then. Before that, spices had been only merchandise. Aromatics were used in tiny quantities but in great and in a variety of combinations. Cooking was transformed into an art which reached magnificent heights.

The banquets at the courts of

the caliphs of Baghdad were proverbial for their lavishness. A court cuisine had developed which made use of expensive ingredients and elaborate and sophisticated techniques, and in which visual appeal was extremely important.

It amalgamated the peasant dishes of the area and the Bedouin foods of the desert with those of Syria — Damascus had been the capital of the empire before Baghdad — and, especially, of Persia.

The enormous Ottoman Empire, which expanded right into the heart of Europe from the 14th century and into the 20th, produced a new court cuisine in its turn.

The sultans' courts became notorious for their luxury and their devotion to the pleasures of the table.

The imperial kitchens catered for some 4,000 or 5,000 people on the days the Divan (cabinet) met, and for up to 10,000 on special occasions such as the reception of a foreign ambassador.

An army of cooks was required and that, in turn, required codification. Strict rules were adopted so that chefs could more easily train apprentices, and these rules formed the basis of a classic Ottoman cuisine.

In the early days of the Ottomans, all the palace cooks

were slaves who had been captured, bought or given as gifts by Venetian traders. A cooking school was established for their children. The position of cook was important, even glorious, and it meant that, by ingratiating themselves with their noble employers or even the sultan, individual cooks could rise to become part of the ruling class. Koprulu Mehmet Pasha, the Ottoman Empire's most powerful vizier, began his career as a cook.

The first Turkish-born cooks employed in Topkapi Palace were recruited as camp cooks in the mountain region of Bolu, in northwestern Anatolia, where the sultans went hunting. It became the tradition that every boy of Bolu left at the age of 13 to work in the palace kitchen or in the houses of the nobles in Istanbul.

The type of cooking that was passed on grew out of an amalgam of traditions borrowed from the empire's conquered territories.

The tastes of Byzantium and of the Arabs predominated, and nomadic Turkish foods combined with Chinese and Mongolian ones passed on through Turkistan.

The result was the sophisticated cuisine that spread from

the Danube to the tip of the Arabian peninsula, from the Balkans to the shores of North Africa and to parts of what is now the USSR — often by means of the battalions of cooks that marched with the Ottoman armies.

The cooking of the Middle East can be broadly divided into four main general styles: Arab, Iranian, North African and Turkish.

Iranian cooking, based on rice, is the most complex and the least known. Arab cooking is highly developed in Syria, where Aleppo is considered the great gastronomic city, and in Lebanon — one of only two Middle Eastern countries to have developed a restaurant tradition. (The other is Turkey). It is Lebanon, with its emigrant cooks and restaurateurs, which has brought the grilled meats and mazzah of the Arab restaurant menu to the attention of the world.

The menu evolved 70 years ago in the region of Zillah, in the open-air cafes, which filled the valley, vied to attract customers with an ever varied selection of appetizers, which were in fact the local village foods.

Moroccan food is the richest and most varied of North Africa, and that which has not been influenced at all by France. It illustrates the kind of kaleidoscopic diversity that exists in the Middle East. The national dish, kuskus (couscous), is of Berber origin.

Many other dishes were brought by the Arabs in waves of invasions which started in the seventh century; they have remained almost unchanged since the Middle Ages. Still other dishes have their origin in Spain and bear witness to the long Muslim domination of that country. The food of Marakesh is Berber with an African element, while the bourgeois cooking of Fez, the dominant cuisine, is more Andalusian, as is that of Tetouan. And on the Atlantic side of the country certain strategic locations reveal the Portuguese incursions of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Food in the mountain regions is predominantly Berber, while the desert has the usual food of the nomadic Arab tribesmen,



Kebabs in various forms are a popular Middle Eastern dish.

based on dates. There is hardly any Ottoman influence except in Tetouan, where there was an exchange of cooks when the Ottoman Army stopped.

There is great regional diversity in Turkey, but the classic cooking we know abroad belongs to Istanbul. Despite the diversity, restaurants all over modern Turkey offer the same menu of meat and appetizers because professional cooks, who still mostly come from the region of Bolu, cook the same dishes in the same way.

It is called saray (palace) cooking. The food trade is highly

specialised, and its division into guilds is a legacy of the rigid hierarchy of the imperial Ottoman kitchens, where butchers, grocers, icemen, collectors of herbs, soup-makers, confectioners and bakers were all organised into separate corps with their own quarters and sometimes even their own mosques.

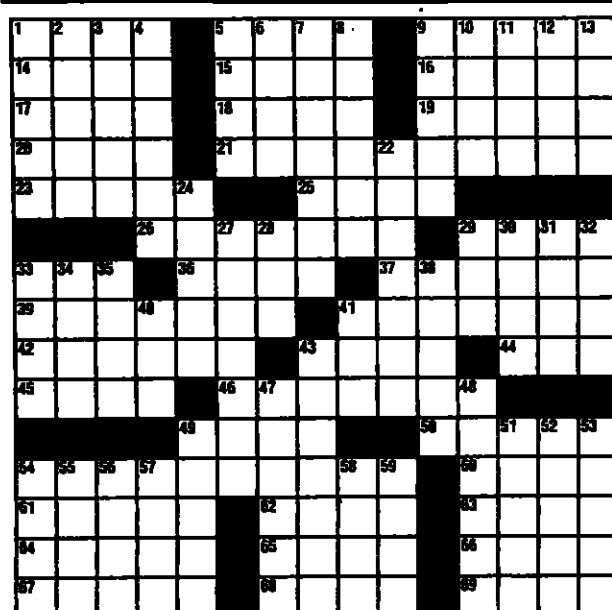
Finally, each of these general kinds of Middle Eastern cooking is cut across by other divisions. The cities of Iraq, for example, each exhibit the effects of different culinary influences — as picking up a spade at a Middle Eastern archaeological site.

another, Syrian and Indian in a third and fourth.

In another example, while the cooking of Istanbul is like that of Cairo and Jerusalem — they were also major Ottoman centres in their day — it is different from that of other Turkish cities whose imperial role was less important.

All these currents and connections have to do with the centres of power and the network of influence of the historical Middle East. Today, picking up a fork is as much a historical act — and as potentially illuminating — as picking up a spade at a Middle Eastern archaeological site.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Civil players
 - "Lonely Boy" singer
 - NBA setting
 - Part of QED
 - Mountain passes
 - Go by car
 - One of Henry's Catherine
 - Significant times
 - Make amends
 - To — (exactly)
 - Band
 - Instruments
 - Alpine sound
 - Uttered
 - Dotters of it's, crossers of it's
 - "The Georgia Peach"
 - Hall of Fame basketball coach
 - Hank
 - Overthrows first base
 - "Rug"
 - Quack medicine
 - Cheap
 - Bigotry
 - Nimbus
 - Oval circuit
 - Numerical
 - Suffixes
 - "The — in the Rue Morgue"
 - Incination
 - Robert or Roland
 - Squeeze box
 - Sioux
 - Put on a pedestal
 - Cow-headed goddess
 - Blue or White River
 - "Haystacks" painter
- DOWN**
- Vesuvius's rival
 - Guido's high notes
 - Wave breakers
 - Like a basso
 - M. Lacoste
 - DOWN
 - Settle a tab
 - Muse of poetry
 - Challenged
 - 1982 Oscar actress
 - Court winners
 - Author Ephron
 - Loud warning signals
 - Catalogue
 - Menotti hero
 - Sunday section, for short
 - Stiff collar
 - "— but the brave..."
 - Heavenly hawk
 - Grazing land
 - Nasty looks
 - Chick Webb, for one
 - Extension
 - Mongrel
 - October birthstone
 - Fraternity letter
 - Road alert
 - Anent
 - Tirremore
 - "The Nazarene" author
 - Eared seal
 - "— the season..."
 - Quid
 - Performer
 - Loose
 - Oklahoman
 - Borscht basis
 - Serviceable
 - Astro Ryan
 - Followers of a sort
 - Vacation site
 - Repute
 - Nanette's caution
 - Staff
 - 58 1 Across, e.g.
 - Office abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A H A S S T O A A F A R
 R A V E C L A I M L I R E
 C H I N C H I L L A F E E D
 S A V A R I N R A I L S
 T A N K G I B E D
 D A K O T A B O L E M A B
 A D O R E D R O L L O R E
 W A I D S U R A N O A U E R
 E P I S N A K Y E D S E L
 S T A I N G E S E M E L E
 K I T E S D A L L I
 F I B B E R O P E R A T E
 U S E S V A M P I R E B A T
 A L A E E R R E D R E N O
 D E R N S A S S S T A N

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ J10762 ♥ K83 ♦ A3 ♣ 762
 Your partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
 A.—Whether or not you play four-card majors has no bearing on this problem. You are good enough for only one bid, so choose the one most likely to land you in the right contract. Don't muddy the waters by responding one spade—a raise to two hearts is correct.

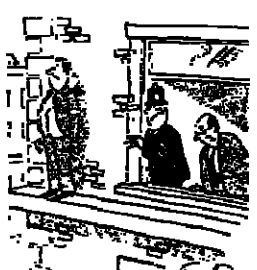
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠ J98 ♥ 10873 ♦ Q654 ♣ A9
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 1 NT
 ?
 What action do you take?
 A.—The modern tendency is to treat partner's overall, especially vulnerable, as if it were an opening bid. Had partner opened the bidding with one spade, you would have raised to two spades, so make the same bid now.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ KJ1072 ♥ Void ♦ A7 ♣ KJ10984
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♦ 1 ♥ ?
 What do you bid?
 A.—You probably have a game or slam somewhere, but don't start with a cue-bid of two hearts—that's stealing your own bidding space! Simply bid your longest suit, two clubs. That's forcing. At your next turn, introduce your spades. That way, you can be sure to find a fit, if one exists, without escalating the

auction to a phenomenal level.
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠ AKJ1084 ♥ K ♦ A1092 ♣ K5
 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
 A.—For a jump shift, you need either a self-sustaining suit or a good fit for partner. This hand virtually qualifies on both counts. Jump to two spades.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ AKJ10987 ♥ K9 ♦ 06 ♣ Q92
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 Pass Pass Pass ?
 What is your opening bid?
 A.—The fact that no one opened the bidding seems to suggest that the points are pretty evenly distributed around the table. Partner is unlikely to have enough for you to make slam, and with your lack of defense outside spades, it's possible the opponents have a big fit of their own in a side suit. Make it difficult for them to enter the auction by opening four spades. You're much too strong for three spades.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠ AQ1093 ♥ Q107642 ♦ Void ♣ A7
 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
 A.—The normal procedure is to bid your longer suit first, and there's no reason to depart from standard practice on this hand. Despite the difference in quality between the suits, your correct response is one heart. You are strong enough distributionally to reverse into spades next.



"You keep him talking, Of flier, while I go down and move my car."



"Help"

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)
 The more favourable influence of the Sun coupled with that of Venus will help you to achieve some personal success. You will get on better with those in your immediate vicinity. You should take your mind off work for the day.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
 You will not be in the best of moods and should do all you can to stay out of an argument. You should take the best possible care of your health. Try not to make a fool of yourself. Be forgiving.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
 You will feel more like your usual self. You will have more success than you expected. Try not to get things out of proportion. Be reasonable.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
 Mars' better influence will help you to feel more in touch with the situation. You will be able to do something more constructive. You should try not to put all your eggs into one basket. Be sympathetic.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
 Others will be more sympathetic towards you. You should not take too much for granted. Avoid trying to do things by force instead use your charm to the full. Be cordial.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
 You will be able to maintain contact with an interesting person. You should not try to make out that you are more clever and knowledgeable than you are. Do not think that you have nothing more to learn. Be magnanimous.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
 There are some positive factors and they will help you to deal with a somewhat adverse situation. You will be better able to look on the bright side. You should be even more careful than usual when driving. Be abstemious.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
 This is going to be a slightly less than smooth day for you. Never mind, try to look on the better side. Something you had feared might not happen. Be pertinent.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
 You will find it easier to deal with a problem you had thought would be formidable. There is no reason why you should not have full confidence in yourself. Make sure you do not do anything that would be damaging to your health.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
 Today's more favourable planetary influences will help you to get on well with others. You should not allow yourself to be persuaded to act against your better judgement. Beware of eating more than you know you should. Be sincere.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
 The influence of the Sun and of the Moon will help you to stick to what you have determined upon. You should not allow your reactions to run away with you. Make sure you do not take any risks whilst on the road. Be consistent.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
 You will be able to do something you have long wanted to do, but avoid extremes. Think twice and again before you make any changes just now. Do not retire too much into yourself. Be moderate.

SNIPPETS

Marcos willing to negotiate

FORMER President Marcos has expressed willingness to negotiate with the government for his return, Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordóñez said recently.

Ordóñez said US Assistant Attorney Charles Labella, one of the prosecutors in the racketeering charges filed against the former strongman in New York City, relayed Marcos' desire in an overseas call.

Ordóñez said Labella dismissed fears of Marcos' death and said the deposed president expected to recover his health in six to ten weeks at St Francis Hospital in Hawaii.

Ordóñez quoted Labella as saying the Marcoses are very interested in bargaining for their return.

New rules for importing old cars

STARTING this year, returning Filipinos who have resided abroad for at least a year may bring in their old cars under a new tax scheme which reduces import duties on such vehicles by as much as 50 per cent.

In a recent memorandum by Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison, a straightening method has been adopted in computing the depreciation of vehicles such that a 10 per cent exemption is granted for every year of depreciation.

Vehicles more than five years old are likewise given 50 per cent exemption on all taxes and duties normally imposed on imported cars.

Covered by the order are returning residents and immigrants who have continuously resided abroad for at least one year.

Also entitled under the new scheme are executives of foreign offices and others authorized by special provisions of laws, treaties and international agreements.

Increase in government unions

THE number of government workers who have joined unions has increased to 100,000 since 1986 when the Philippine Constitution first allowed them to form such organizations in the public sector.

A report of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said there is also an upward trend in the number of government unions as well as labour complaints from these groups.

As this developed, the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno assailed a consolidated bill on labour set to be signed by President Aquino next week which contains broad revisions on the Philippine Labour Code.

A statement from the KNU branded the bill, principally authored by Sen. Ernesto Herrera, as anti-labour.

Warning on POEA imposters

THE Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) has warned licensed recruitment agencies not to deal with POEA imposters.

Anti-illegal recruitment chief lawyer Ronnie Redilla issued the warning after receiving reports of persons collecting money from several recruitment agencies and dropping the names of POEA administrator Thomas Achacoso, licensing regulation chief Estelita Espiritu and his name.

Redilla said Edilberto Cojuangco Orcajo has been introducing himself as Jess Sid-dayao, Crescenciano Iddayao and Manuel Imson, POEA deputy administrators.

Pay hikes for teachers

SEN. Teofisto Guingona disclosed recently that public school teachers will get an increase of P490 in their basic salary in June, as he revealed the guidelines on remedial legislation on loans for teachers and the service fees collected from them.

In a press conference at the Senate, Guingona said the teachers will be largely benefitted by the remedial legislation since they will continue to avail themselves of loans, insurance coverages and a Provident Fund for contingencies.

Philippines burdened with \$23 billion debt

Flurry of talks on aid, new IMF loan

By Jeremy Cliff

MANILA. (Reuters): The Philippines is launching negotiations for a new deal with the International Monetary Fund and a multi-billion dollar aid plan to underpin its economic recovery.

The United States and Japan have sent their aid chiefs to Manila to discuss the proposed aid initiative, to be followed by World Bank president Barber Conable, who will visit in mid-February.

Proposals

Besides the aid plan, Finance Minister Vicente Jayme says a new deal with the IMF is crucial for the economic future of the heavily-indebted Pacific nation of 60 million people.

At issue is the extent to which Manila will agree to IMF demands to put its books in order by curbing public spending and allowing a depreciation of the Philippine currency in

return for an IMF package of \$1.3 billion.

Some ministers, especially National Planning Secretary Solita Monsod, say the IMF proposals would lead to lower economic growth and undermine the government's drive to curb poverty and create new jobs.

President Corason Aquino has stated Manila is not ready to compromise on growth and wants more lenient terms from the IMF.

She told Jayme, who resumed negotiations with the IMF last Monday, "to again make clear to our creditors that we need very much to maintain our economic growth and we can only do this if we are given better terms."

The IMF's seal of approval is essential for the success of a series of other negotiations on the proposed multilateral aid plan for the Philippines, new loans from commercial banks and the rescheduling of \$2.4

billion of official debt.

The US originally proposed a five-year aid package of up to \$10 billion for the Philippines to back Aquino's government and help rebuild the economy after a slump in the final years under former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Aid

Officials from donor countries like Japan, Western Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, now say aid is more likely to touch the five billion dollar mark.

Aquino, anxious to dispel donor charges that Manila is slow in using aid and has up to two billion dollars in the pipeline, has beefed up implementation of assistance projects and appointed a prominent industrialist to head a council to co-ordinate the aid programme.

The US has indirectly linked its aid initiative with negotiations on the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay naval

facilities. The US wants to extend its lease on the two important military bases after 1991, but Aquino is keeping her options open.

The Philippines is burdened with debts of \$23 billion. With renewed business confidence under Aquino, the economy has bounced back, posting a growth rate of 6.7 per cent last year.

Aquino says she needs extra help from abroad to maintain the momentum.

The IMF, more worried about ensuring that spending does not get too ambitious, is seeking a reduced budget deficit, higher foreign exchange reserves, a depreciation of the peso, increased taxes, and further trade liberalisation. Philippine officials said.

The negotiations could be rocky.

The two sides broke off talks last November because they could not agree on policy changes.

From leaves to jeans and discos

By Jim Gomez

TASADAY tribesmen now wear Levi's jeans and dance to disco music played on battery-operated cassettes deep in the jungles of Mindanao, a missionary said.

"It's an evolution from leaves to Levi's," said Fr Rex Mansmann, an American priest who heads a Catholic mission taking care of Tasaday and Manobo tribesmen in the rain forests of South Cotabato.

The missionary expressed fears the introduction of electronics into the lives of the tribesmen may ultimately destroy their unique culture.

Appointments

Mansmann said the modern appliances were brought to the forests by Tasaday tribesmen who attended an international conference of tribal minorities in Manila last year.

The Tasadays have been the object of an international controversy since the government "discovered" them in the jungles of Southern Philippines in 1971.

Then President Ferdinand Marcos declared the tribesmen as indigenous tribe living in Stone Age conditions and set aside timber-rich lands for them in the place where they were, allegedly discovered.

Some Filipino scholars, however, have branded the "discovery" of the Tasaday tribes a hoax orchestrated by Marcos and his cronies to gain inter-



national publicity for the Philippines.

The tribesmen now live in a 19,000-hectare forest reservation in South Cotabato's jungles. Mansmann's organisation, called the St. Cruz mission, takes care of the Tasadays as well as Manobos living inside the area.

Financed

Mansmann said 20 Tasadays were brought down from the forest to Manila in November last year to attend the International festival and conference on Indigenous and Traditional Cultures held at the Philippine International Convention Centre.

The trip was financed by the Office of Southern Cultural Communities (OSCC), an agency set up by the government to protect tribal people, Fr Rex McDonagh, an officer of the mission, said.

Mansmann and officers of the St. Cruz mission came down from the forest and went to Manila last week to urge President Aquino not to order the removal of the mission from the Tasaday reservation area.

The OSCC has recommended the removal of the Catholic mission from the Tasaday area, accusing its members of co-opting communist guerrillas operating in the jungles of South Cotabato.

Mansmann said military and local officials in the province want them out so they can dig for rich deposits of gold and uranium recently discovered near the place where the tribesmen live.

Women carnappers on the rise in Manila

CARNAPPERS are using a new trick in their nefarious trade with considerable success: beautiful women befriending unsuspecting drivers or car owners.

So, beware, said Col. Emiliano Tempio, commander of the anti-carnapping task force.

A number of curvaceous women carnappers have fallen into counter-traps laid by Tempio.

Tempio said this is the latest trick employed by carnappers. Car owners would least suspect a sexy woman would steal his car capitalizing only on lipstick and seductive movements.

The next thing the car owner discovers after a sweet tender conversation with an "innocent" woman is, his car is gone.

Tempio who is also the concurrent deputy commander of Capcom for operations said, 75 to 80 per cent of carnapping incidents in the country occur in Metro Manila.

He said the favourite places of carnappers are Makati, Manila and Quezon City where 70 per cent of carnapping incidents in the metropolis were reported.

Makati is a top favourite of carnappers because it is where

latest models of cars owned by wealthy business executives can be found, Tempio said.

He said members of anti-carnapping task force concentrate their patrols in these three areas.

Tempio clarified that the anti-carnapping task force will not, in any way, supplant the police forces anywhere in Metro Manila.

The task force will only come in if a particular police station will not be able to cope with the rising incidents of carnapping, he said.

The task force is there to assist the local police and increase police patrol visibility, he added.

One of the recent victims of carnapping was Celia Lumbera a businesswoman from Las Pinas Metro Manila.

She parked her 1976 Toyota Corolla at the vicinity of Big Bang carnival in Alabang a few days before Christmas when it was carnapped.

During the first ten days of January, 14 cars were stolen in Metro Manila.

He said that before the task force was formed in June last year, an average of five vehicles were carnapped daily from Jan 1 to May 31, 1988.

Bill to protect Filipino women

REP. Nikki Coseteng (Kaiba), Quezon City said recently she will file a bill for the further protection of women against abuse and harassment.

Coseteng made the announcement following her participation as Philippine delegate to the International Conference of Women Jan 19-21 in Bonn, West Germany.

The conference, attended by 500 delegates who are all female legislators from all over the world, was timed for the 70th anniversary of the German

women's triumphant crusade for suffrage.

Over 22 European countries were represented in the conference also attended by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Canada, the United States, Africa, Latin America, Asia, and other nations.

In Bonn, Coseteng also met with representatives of West Germany's Ministry of Youth, Family, and Women, Ministry of Public Health, and top officials of the Shelter for Battered Women.

After Imelda, Tessie sets her sights abroad

By Leah C. Salterio

HER remarkable performance as Imelda Marcos in the Australian TV mini-series "A Dangerous Life" and the successful staging of her hit stand-up comedy act Meldita, in the US last year, gave Tessie Tomas the strong desire to explore new and greater heights—to try out in the international scene.

Presumably, it is the opportunity and working experience, and not the money, which lures Tessie into pursuing an international career.

"I want to take advantage of what has been happening to my career," Tessie explains. "I want to look for other possibilities and wider opportunities, plus the fact, of course, that I'll get to be recognised not just in our country."

Limelight

Tessie, who has not been visible in the limelight of late (her last show was Let's Hikit Agala Teysie, staged at Rizal Theatre last July), is not simply taking a break.

Still thrilled by the favourable reviews she earned for the role in A Dangerous Life, she is now getting ready for possible shows abroad by March and April.

Tessie is set to leave for the US to negotiate with foreign producers for potential international projects.

She is likewise scheduled to do a series of shows for the Filipino communities in the East Coast, West Coast and Canada. "Four to six weeks lang naman ako doon," Tessie states. "When I get back, I'll prepare for my TV special here, and probably, an entirely new show by the middle of this year."

What does Tessie mean by "an



Tessie Tomas: trying her luck in the United States

entirely new show?" She declares, "I will not do Meldita anymore. I want to prove that I can do other characters, para hindi naman ako ma-typecast." But then, Tessie may simply have to resign herself to being identified as Meldita, since her credible performance made the character "synonymous" with her and vice versa.

For her US performances, the comedienne will introduce The Best of Tessie Tomas, spoofing interesting characters like Bonnie Buendia, Tina Monsoon-Palma, Cory Anino, and NPA amazon and many others, with her script done to suit Filipino audiences abroad.

When asked how she manages to come up with different characters like the ones mentioned, Tessie discloses, "I get ideas from the

people... sa masa para alam ko kung ano ang bago." Then she adds, "A good show can happen if you have good and fresh material, because that will be the foundation of everything else in your production."

Tessie writes her own script and conceptualizes most of her shows. "I'm a comedienne, dapat lang, marami akong ideas," she reasons. "That's to be expected of me. I can't be dependent on my writers forever. The characters I portray are what make people excited about my show. Ibaiba kasi ang napapanatili na, natatawa mo."

Her mom (Laila Hermosa), according to Tessie, is one person who has greatly influenced her showbiz career, but when it comes to her sense-of-humour, she refers to her dad.

Off camera, Tessie is even fun-

By Melchor P. Aquino

OF ALL the dominant personalities on the national scene today, nobody is more steeped in the philosophy and science of social service than Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus. His concept of "development diplomacy," viewed from the perspective of the workaday world, appears as a facet of his social orientation.

In the Manglapus scheme of development diplomacy, a salient feature is an international labour programme, designed to seize opportunities for Philippine labour in the world manpower market and to guard the rights and promote the welfare of overseas workers.

Foreign Secretary Manglapus has wisely placed such programme under the charge of Assistant Secretary for International Labour Affairs Israel Bocoobo, seasoned labour leader and top labour lawyer.

Concern

Labour affairs, to be sure, are a discipline in the Philippine foreign service. It has heretofore been the virtual exclusive concern of other government agencies like the Department of Labour and the POEA.

Over almost two decades, the deployment of Filipino manpower abroad has been nothing short of spectacular.

Easily outnumbering other Filipino nationals in foreign lands by nine to one, Filipino overseas workers are, quite logically and properly, a major concern of Philippine consular and diplomatic establishments abroad.

With their bountiful dollar earnings, the overseas workers have made a singularly significant contribution to the makings of national economic recovery. Thus, they have been hailed as the "new heroes" by President Aquino.

Tales of woe have paralleled

Overseas workers: a new discipline for the foreign service

success stories in the overseas labour market. Illegal workers outnumber legal workers by an astounding ratio of seven to one.

This is the single biggest factor in the overall problem of migrant workers. Then, too, instances of contractual violations, discriminatory and oppressive management practices, and "cultural shock" have attended the lives of significant numbers of Filipino workers in foreign countries.

In all these instances, alert attention, abiding concern, prudent intervention, and skilful diplomacy are demanded of the Philippine foreign service.

Assistant Secretary Bocoobo brings to the administration of Manglapus programme for overseas workers a wealth of first-hand experience in the adjustment of labour-management problems.

For thirty years, he did yeoman's service in the Philippine trade union movement as union administrator and negotiator; national secretary and later national president of PAFU, the dominant labour federation of the time; and, uninterruptedly PAFU chief counsel.

Foundations

Bocoobo was, by the way, undersecretary of labour when the foundations for the overseas labour programme were laid.

It is noteworthy that Bocoobo is an ILO-appointed "Labour Administration Expert," and served for two decades as the representative of the labour movement on the Social Security Commission.

Far from sharing the view held in some quarters that the demand abroad for Filipino workers is a "passing phenomenon," Bocoobo sees increasingly bright prospects in the world manpower market.

He says, "Several factors ensure a continued, steady demand. Among these are dramatic advances in technology in communication and transportation; the progressive conversion of the world into a global village; the lifting of barriers between nations; free ingress and egress in different parts of the world; and the need and reality of technology transfer."

Argues

The assistant secretary argues that the constitutional duty of the government to extend protection to overseas workers is beyond argument and caveat, and that such duty is best discharged through the country's diplomatic and consular establishments abroad.

Efforts in this regard, he stresses, have to be co-ordinated with those of the Department of Labour and related agencies.

It is to be hoped that the Manglapus programme for overseas workers, which bears the imprimatur of the Aquino administration, may consistently be back-stopped by appropriate legislation.

The programme calls for an optimum display of social conscience of the part of the policymakers of the present dispensation. Overseas workers are, in effect, clearing a new Philippine frontier.

Raw deal for US-bound nurses

REPORTS said that mounting cases of Filipino nurses who arrived at US hospitals have found that they have first to take care of themselves because of the miserable conditions that await them in their working places.

Although Filipino nurses will continue to be in demand in the US for the next five years, a study must be done to avoid letdowns among the nurses. This was suggested by Erony C. Fortich who heads the Gulf Pacific Services and Trading Corp., an outfit that recruits nurses for the US.

Unscrupulous recruiters and newspapers ads tend to mislead

the nurse applicants, Fortich said.

Gulf Pacific Services makes it a point to put in its roster only US hospitals with good records, Fortich added.

According to Fortich, the Atlantic Medical Centre in the US is one hospital that boasts of a full range of medical needs with state-of-the-art excellence. The 615-bed voluntary, non-profit, acute-care, multi-site hospital continuously introduces educational programmes. The Filipino nurses will definitely appreciate the hospital's progressive approach to nursing

and patient care.

With the hospital's continuous lecture programme on current medical and health care issues, clinical skills and new technology, the Filipino nurses will be able to expand their skills and knowledge.

On wages and benefits, the Filipino nurses who will land employment at the Atlantic Medical Centre are assured of a compensation package, described as "satisfactory." The employment bonus alone of \$1,000 will be paid upon signing of pre-employment agreement, Fortich said. (Chito Parazo).

Psychic scares bureaucrat into action

SEBU CITY: Apparently worried by a prediction made by a local psychic that a 10 to 11 storey building will collapse this year due to weak foundation, the city's Office of Building Official (OBO) immediately conducted an inspection of all existing buildings in the city with five to eleven floors two days after the prediction was published in the Sunday Pages supplement of The Freeman, a local daily here, on last Jan 1.

Expressing alarm over the prediction made by Lorna "Baby" Seno Gio, a housewife who read cards for fun, acting city building official Suzanne Bernardo told a reporter of the same daily which published the prediction that the inspection she ordered will cover new and old buildings in the city, including those under construction.

Although her move was based on the prediction, Bernardo said it was better to prevent such an incident.

Nevertheless, Bernardo assumed that all existing buildings in the city are "safe" as long as construction of building complied with the approved structural plans. Such plans are approved by the OBO.



Sentenced for stealing T-bone steaks

ANGELES CITY: A US court martial sentenced an American serviceman to two years confinement and dishonourable discharge for conspiring with a group of Filipinos in stealing \$9,000 worth of T-bone steaks inside Clark Air Base last year.

Convicted was Sgt Michael A. Lafayette of Detachment 53, Air Force commissary service at Clark, who was also sentenced to reduction of his rank and forfeiture of a \$400 a month salary for two years.

Lafayette was apprehended by Clark's office of special investigation in the cold storage compound at the commissary of Aug 1 last year. He had cut the seals of a freezer and was caught taking out and loading 60 cases of T-bone steaks into a jeepney with the help of some Filipinos.

Two of the suspects drove off with the jeepney but were caught by OSI agents and base security men at the main gate. The two Filipinos were not identified.

Lafayette's co-conspirators are being tried in a local court here.

KAPILKU announces new projects

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapanganang Filipino Sa Kuwait) will hold their BAYANIHAN on Friday, February 10 at Church Hall between 2 and 6 pm, and KAPILKU night on March 3 at the Holiday Inn.

KAPILKU President Manny Inserto sees the BAYANIHAN project as "a tool to foster unity and solidarity among Filipinos in Kuwait."

BAYANIHAN will also help those Filipinos who need counselling & who are homesick, Inserto said.

Sarah Macarimbang, Vice-President Social & Cultural Affairs is the brainchild behind this project. The idea is to make Filipinos from all walks of life



Sarah Macarimbang (left) and Manny Inserto

meet and mingle with one another and share their experiences and views.

Participants will be entertained by guest singers, parlour games and a raffle contest, Macarimbang said. Comedy skits will be provided by Rolly Paulate & Milan Mendez, AVP Sonny Uy will assist Sarah on these projects.

KAPILKU night will take

place on Friday, March 3 at the Holiday Inn Hotel from 5:00 to 9 p.m. The purpose of this project is to discover new talents in the field of singing and all Filipinos are invited to participate in the "SING-A-LIKE CONTEST" plus the regular singing contest.

Interested participants must submit the original, and type-written songs to the organisers. There will be prizes for the top three winners in both contests.

This project will enhance Filipino talents in the field of singing, Sarah said. Entrance for all contestants is free.

For particulars and details please contact Sarah Macarimbang on Tel: 484-3447 or Rod Cerezo, co-ordinator on Tel 2433595.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

French minister denies insider trading in Pechiney affair

PARIS, Feb. 4, (Reuters): A French financier with close ties to the ruling Socialist Party has denied that he was guilty of insider share-dealing allegations in a scandal that has rattled the government, an interview published today said.

Max Theret's CPP Investment Company was criticised by an official investigation into last November's acquisition of the US-based packaging company Triangle Industries by the French state-owned aluminium giant, Pechiney.

The Paris bourse watchdog Cob said in its report last Tuesday that CPP transactions in Triangle stock just before the \$1.26-billion takeover were "highly suspect." A state magistrate has opened a criminal investigation into the affair.

Theret told the daily Le Monde that business acumen, not inside information, led him to invest in Triangle.

But he said the chief Cob investigator who questioned him had clearly made up his mind in advance.

Guilty

"For him I was guilty, I was guilty of insider trading. He did not believe one could simply catch on to something."

Theret, 76, with a history of heart trouble, was taken to hospital in Paris this week at the height of the scandal.

He said any inconsistencies in his evidence to the Cob were due to the fact he had just left hospital after an operation.

Mitterrand and his ministers have promised there will be no cover-up of either the Pechiney takeover or a row over stake-building in the Societe Generale bank by government supporters and publicly owned corporations.

The rightwing opposition has seized on both affairs as proof that prominent socialists are profiting from close links between government and state-owned enterprises.

Theret said he contributed money to the Socialist Party at elections and during fund-raising drives. "But it cannot be said that I am the party's financier."

Mideast top sales executive

PRADEEP Survana, British Airways executive in Dubai, has been named top sales executive for 1988 by British Airways in the Middle East.

He received his award certificate at the airline's recent regional meeting held in Dubai. Pradeep was nominated by his sales manager, John Ganner, for his ability to attract commercial traffic from all segments of the community and for his unfailing enthusiasm and commitment.

Award

Ganner said: "It was especially pleasing to see this award come to a member of the Dubai sales team. We face strong competition here in Dubai but our results recently have shown that we are offering the kind of service that brings our customers back. Pradeep has certainly played his part in getting this message across."

Rafsanjani declares decade of economic construction

NICOSIA, Feb. 4, (Reuters): Iran should focus on economic development and independence in the next 10 years of its Islamic revolution, parliamentarian speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today.

"The road to the salvation of the country ... is to have 'more production for economic independence' as our slogan in the second decade of the revolution," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

Established Iran is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the revolution which toppled the monarchy and established an Islamic republic led by Ayatollah Khomeini.

Rafsanjani, speaking at Tehran's mass Friday prayer meeting, said the war with Iraq and other 'enemy plots' had blunted economic growth in the first 10 years.

But the resulting hardships had consolidated the revolution, he said, and now it was necessary to move to a new phase.

"God willing, we hope to go through the period of reconstruction with patience, understanding of where we are, greater efforts, co-operation, friendship and unity," IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as saying.

Policies to clamp down on inflation paying off

G-7 agrees to steer steady course for dollar

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (Reuters): The West's financial leaders papered over cracks in economic policy co-ordination during two days of low-key talks but Europe and Japan left President George Bush with a clear message to cut the US budget deficit.

The Group of Seven major industrial nations, anxious not to stall strong world growth, agreed to steer a steady course for the dollar while working behind the scenes on new ways to fight the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt crisis.

The United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy ended their talks on Friday with an upbeat assessment of the world economy and said their policies to clamp down on inflation were paying off.

"This is not a perfect world," British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson said after about 12 hours of talks that

began with a working dinner on Thursday evening. "But on the whole we are reasonably satisfied."

Finance ministers and central bank chiefs, invited to Washington by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, failed to resolve all their underlying policy differences but also pointedly refrained from airing them in public.

By breaking with tradition and not issuing a final communiqué, the Group of Seven also took a calculated gamble that their briefings to journalists on Friday would convince financial markets of their commitment to keep the dollar steady.

The picture that emerged showed the world's seven richest economies closing ranks on a wide range of issues although differences of emphasis look set to surface in coming months.

Brady stressed his commitment to slashing the US budget

deficit to \$100 billion in the next fiscal year from a projected \$161.5 billion this year. Europe and Japan came away reassured that it was the Bush administration's priority.

But both France and West Germany made it clear they considered the United States had put too much emphasis on monetary policy in the past and that budget cuts would be the best way to allow US and world interest rates to fall.

Finance ministers in their briefings stressed the importance of continued co-ordination on currencies and said their attempts to keep rates steady since their "Louvre accord" at a Paris meeting in February 1987 had been largely successful.

But West Germany said that a dollar advance to 1.90 marks, just two pence above Friday's New York close, would raise questions about the Group of Seven's strategy of redressing global trade imbalances via

exchange rate policies.

Japanese officials were more blunt. They said they could live with current rates but would not tolerate a higher dollar.

A Bush administration official said later the United States and its allies would continue to intervene to stop the dollar from rising above target ranges agreed by the seven.

Voices

But it is evident that 1.88 marks is too high for Bonn's liking and 130 yen, tested in recent days, too high for Tokyo.

Evolving a new debt strategy also appears to be a hard task for the Group of Seven, despite consensus that the current policy, pioneered in 1985 by then Treasury Secretary James Baker, must be refined and expanded.

Latin American leaders added their voice to the argument on Friday, endorsing an accord by their finance ministers to push for a reduction in the region's \$420 billion debt burden.

Group of Seven officials will be studying new options behind scenes, but it remains unclear whether major industrial nations will accept schemes that sanction transferring risks from the private sector to the taxpayer.

One scheme being floated, whereby the World Bank would guarantee loan payments to commercial banks, smacks of just that and raises serious questions of whether the bank or the International Monetary Fund should play the lead role in tackling the debt crisis.

The seven industrial nations next meet at the end of March for the IMF's semi-annual meeting in Washington.

By then discussion of a new debt strategy is likely to be more concrete and Europe and Japan will be able to judge just how much success Bush has had negotiating budget cuts with Congress and whether their patience in Washington this week was justified.

Government will continue to guarantee the safety of insured deposits

Bush seeks solution to savings and loans crisis

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (AP): President George Bush said yesterday that any plan to rescue the troubled savings and loan industry "will not be popular" but he pledged that the government will continue to guarantee the safety of insured deposits.

Bush met at the White House with congressional leaders to seek ideas on how to resolve the crisis of failing savings and loans. A bailout may cost the public more than \$100 billion.

The nation's 3,000 savings and loans institutions, also known as thrifts, make personal and mortgage loans. The 13,000 US commercial banks make business loans. Hundreds of the savings and loans are in financial difficulties.

Thrift losses have been building for a decade because of a combination of economic turmoil, uneven deregulation, sloppy government supervision

and sometimes poor or fraudulent management.

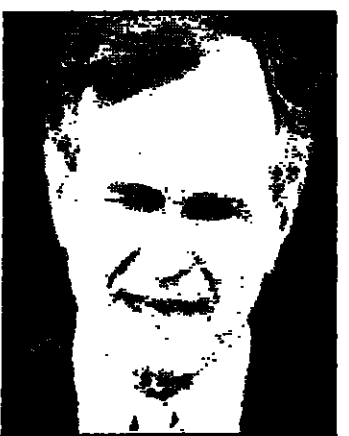
"We've got a big problem in the savings and loan industry," Bush told the lawmakers. "There are no easy answers, no worrying about blame — plenty to go around. I want to see the problem solved."

House Speaker Jim Wright and Senate majority leader George Mitchell, both opposition Democrats, pledged co-operation.

Worried

After the meeting, Sen. Jake Garn of Utah, senior Republican on the Senate Banking Committee, said an idea floated by the administration last week for a fee on savings deposits "is not a viable option" even though the White House has not disavowed it publicly.

Sen. Donald Riegle, chairman of the Banking Committee, said Bush did not give a clue about



Bush

what he would propose.

Bush said he will meet today with Treasury Department officials to hear their final recommendations and then early next week reveal the course he will take.

The administration is worried

that advertisements from commercial banks in three states questioning the safety of savings and loan accounts may needlessly scare depositors who are already worried.

White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, who was present at yesterday's meeting, criticised the ads Thursday at a private, hour-long meeting of Bush and five savings and loans and bank trade associations, said Frederick Webber, president of the US League of Savings Institutions.

At yesterday's meeting, Bush did not mention the ads but said, "there should be no feeling around the country that some solution will do anything to diminish the credit to the United States being behind the deposits."

The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation insures deposits at S and Ls while the

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insures those at commercial banks.

Sununu's anger over the advertisements underscores the administration's concern that the debate in Washington over how to pay for the S and L crisis has unnerved some thrift depositors.

Last week, regional federal home loan banks reported higher-than-expected S and L withdrawals after Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and other administration officials discussed a suggestion that depositors pay a fee to raise money for the S and L bailout.

Charles O. Bowsher, head of the General Accounting Office, urged the government to take prompt control of the 350 remaining insolvent, but still open, S and Ls after agreement is reached later this year, on a bailout and reform package.

Yeutler

emphasises farm exports

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (Reuters): Agriculture Secretary nominee Clayton Yeutter emphasised farm exports and promised to maintain a tough American trade stance at Senate Agriculture Committee confirmation hearings yesterday.

"We have to build and vigorously sustain market share internationally," Yeutter said at the hearing, echoing comments by US Trade Representative Carla Hills that the Bush administration will pursue an aggressive trade stance.

"If we really want to achieve trade reform," the United States has to provide the leadership and the United States has to provide the pressure," he said.

The committee is expected to confirm Yeutter's nomination easily in a vote early next week. Final Senate approval for Yeutter, who served as US trade representative under Reagan, could come later in the week.

"I think President Bush has done us a good service in picking you to be secretary," committee chairman Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, told Yeutter as the hearings ended.

Yeutter said he favours continuing use of export subsidies as leverage in seeking international farm trade reform, and that such reform is possible in negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"There is plenty of tough sledding ahead but the effort is worth our best shot and we intend to give it our best shot," Yeutter said.

'Time right for summit'

Perez urges OPEC-non-OPEC co-operation

CARACAS, Feb. 4, (Reuters): Venezuela's economic prospects have improved with the recent recovery in world crude prices but OPEC and non-OPEC producers must co-operate to stabilise markets, the country's new president said yesterday.

"We now have a more promising outlook than in the past but we must be vigilant," President Carlos Andres Perez told 24 heads of state or government and hundreds of other dignitaries in Caracas for his inauguration.

Instrument The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is the best instrument to defend the price of our oil," he added, saying that producers must ensure fair prices.

"The effort to stabilise the oil market is a responsibility that OPEC countries and independent oil exporters must share," Perez told the gathering, which also included five OPEC oil ministers and Subroto, the group's

secretary-general.

Perez has pushed for a summit of OPEC heads of state to strengthen unity and boost prices. As Venezuelan president from 1974-79, he attended the last summit, in Algiers in 1975.

He said that on recent tours of African and Gulf OPEC countries he had seen at "the highest level a sense of understanding and unity, along with receptivity to the idea of holding, at a convenient date, a (summit) meeting."

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi said on Sunday President Saddam Hussein had suggested holding a summit in the second half of 1989. Subroto said on Tuesday eight key OPEC ministers would start preparing for one in late March.

Propitious

An OPEC ministerial conference in early June should decide whether to hold a summit, and select a date and venue,

Subroto said.

"... A meeting of OPEC leaders is considered propitious to approve the strategy which will guide (OPEC) in the 1990s," Perez told the gathering, attended by the ministers of Algeria, Ecuador, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's new energy and mines minister says Venezuela has acquired sufficient refining capacity abroad within its current OPEC production quota.

Celestino Armas said yesterday that Venezuela can refine up to 600,000 barrels per day in refineries abroad that it partly owns and called this "a sufficient amount for the current production quota Venezuela is assigned by OPEC," according to the state news agency Venpres.

Venezuela's quota for the first half of this year is 1.6 million barrels per day.

Instead, Venezuela will seek to attract foreign investments in oil,

he said.

"Any joint venture of this kind within the country must be with firms that will guarantee US foreign markets," he said.

Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., the state oil company, had wanted to acquire foreign refining capacity of around 700,000 barrels per day.

Ventures

It has joint ventures in West Germany with Veba Oel in the United States with Chaplin Refining Company and in Sweden with Nynas Petroleum Company. It also leases a refinery on Curaçao.

It recently signed a letter of intent to acquire assets in the Midwestern United States from Unocal, in particular a refinery outside Chicago. Armas did not comment on the Unocal deal.

He said Venezuela will sign an energy co-operation today with Ecuador, which also belongs to OPEC.

US factory orders on the rise

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (AP): Orders to US factories for manufactured goods surged 4.1 per cent in December the biggest rise in six months, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable and non-durable goods climbed to a seasonally adjusted \$237.6 billion orders had increased by 0.5 per cent in November and 2.0 per cent in October.

For 1988, orders for manufac-

tured goods were up a strong 9.7 per cent to \$2.66 trillion after a 7.1 per cent increase during the previous year.

Last year's showing was the best since 12.1 per cent increase in 1979.

American manufacturers have enjoyed an export-led rebound the last two years as a decline in the value of the dollar against foreign currencies made American products more competitive overseas.



British Airways held its regional engineering meetings in the last week of January at its regional head office in Bahrain. BA's line maintenance manager for the Eastern route, Dave Bews (second from left) and the three regional engineering managers, Frank Soler, Far East (left) John Dickerson, Middle East and India, (second from right) and Taph Jones, Africa (right) reviewed BA's engineering operation in the region.

World Business Summary

Mosbacher sworn in as US commerce secretary

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (AP): Texas oilman Robert Mosbacher was sworn in as secretary of commerce yesterday, pledging to help US businesses compete in the world and to clean up polluted waters and shorelines at home. Mosbacher said he would promote economic growth and competitiveness by "expanding overseas markets with US goods and services while ensuring fair competition through effective enforcement of our trade laws." He also singled out as a priority the protection of the nation's waters and shores through efforts of his department's national oceanic and atmospheric administration. "More work can and must be done," he said. "We have been blessed with an abundance of beautiful natural resources, including our oceans, our estuaries, our shorelines, and we must do all in our power to preserve and protect these precious assets." The ceremony was attended by President George Bush, who hailed his longtime friend and fellow Texan as a "savvy international businessman" who would be a key member of the administration's economic team. Taking note of Mosbacher's background as an accomplished sailor, Bush said Mosbacher "will now take the helm at commerce and help chart America's economic course into a new era of prosperity." The oath of office was administered by Secretary of State James A. Baker III, another longtime friend and fellow Texan. Mosbacher's wife, Gertrude, held the Bible upon which her husband placed his hand while taking the oath. Mosbacher, Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady were close advisers to Bush during the presidential campaign. Mosbacher, 61, served as Bush's chief fund-raiser, bring in millions for the presidential campaign. He amassed his personal fortune, estimated at more than \$200 million, as the head of Mosbacher Energy Co. of Houston.

American Airlines to order \$7 billion of new jets

NEW YORK, Feb. 4, (Reuters): American Airlines Inc., the largest US carrier, is expected to order up to 160 McDonnell Douglas Corp. Jetliners worth over \$7 billion as part of an aggressive expansion plan, airline officials and analysts said yesterday. The Fort Worth, Texas-based carrier will announce the order for 60 MD-11 long-range aircraft and up to 100 MD-90 medium-range planes at a news conference set for Tuesday, the sources said. It would be the second largest jet aircraft order in history. An American spokesman confirmed a news conference will be held on Tuesday but declined to say what it was about. McDonnell Douglas spokesmen refused to comment. American's stock on the New York Stock Exchange rose \$2.125 to close at \$61.75. Analysts said American plans to use the three-engine MD-11s, which seat 325 to 400 passengers and can fly up to 8,000 miles, to replace its older DC-10s, which carry 275 to 300 passengers up to 7,000 miles. In September Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc. ordered nine planes and took options to buy another 31 in an order worth \$10.5 billion, the largest in history. American's order continues a rush for new planes that started last year. Airlines want new, quieter jets to comply with stricter US noise regulations and are concerned that older planes may face tighter restrictions by regulators. American will get some of the planes by late 1990 or early 1991, with the rest of the deliveries being stretched out over several years. Customers would normally have to wait until 1993 or 1994 for MD-11s ordered now, officials said. American will get early delivery because British Airways was willing to sell options on the planes which it acquired when it purchased British Caledonian Airways (BCAL) in December 1987. BCAL had been a lead customer for the MD-11 when McDonnell introduced the plane a late 1986.

China to overtake Moscow as biggest wheat buyer

LONDON, Feb. 4, (Reuters): China will supplant the Soviet Union as the largest importer of wheat in the trading year to the end of June, the International Wheat Council said yesterday. A below-target harvest and rising population had pushed up China's import needs. The Soviet Union will, however, remain the biggest importer of grain overall, the IWC, a trade organisation, added. It said that, after a poor harvest, total Soviet imports of both wheat and coarse grains, which include maize (corn) and barley, would be up about 13 per cent at 35 million tonnes. Meanwhile it also slightly raised its estimate of the total world grain crop, meaning that stocks held against emergencies may not be as tight as had been feared after last year's US drought and the lower Soviet and Chinese harvests. The IWC said China's wheat imports in 1988/89 would surpass previous record purchases of 15.3 million tonnes in 1987/88. (The Soviet Union is seen importing 14 million tonnes of wheat). Chinese purchases of coarse grains would bring its total grain imports to 16.6 million tonnes this year. The IWC said China needed more imports after a shortfall in its 1988 harvest, officially estimated at only 393.8 million tonnes, including rice, against a target of 410 million. China is the largest producer of grains, the IWC said. It is always the top rice producer and in most years the largest wheat producer. By the year 2000 it wants to produce 500 million tonnes a year to keep up with population growth. But the IWC said the area sown with grain is expected to decline slightly as land is lost to industry. Yields will have to rise, mainly through more intensive farming practices.

Third World holds 60pc of global hydropower potential

VIENNA, Feb. 4, (OPECNA): About 60 per cent of the world's hydrocarbon capacity exists in developing countries, but only 16 per cent of it in Asia and 13 per cent of it in Latin America, have been utilised, according to a report issued by the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The report, carried by the Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency on Thursday, says the lowest utilisation of hydropower potential is in Africa, where only four per cent of the continent's capacity has been made use of, and utilisation becomes even greater when it comes to small hydropower projects — less than five m.w. UNIDO has called for sustained and integrated development incorporating those forms of energy which have demonstrated a potential for agriculture and small-scale rural industry. The share of commercial energy in developing countries is 35 per cent, almost 60 per cent of it imported. Small hydropower projects, according to UNIDO, are "most attractive" in the context of sustained industrial development strategies where energy production and use are planned in co-ordination with technology, human resources, raw materials and finance. UNIDO engineers are said to be currently working on practical ways of introducing small hydropower plants into Third World countries.

World Bank loan for Algeria

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4, (AP): Algeria will get a \$88 million loan to fight locusts that are threatening to destroy 40 million hectares (98 million acres) of crops, the World Bank announced on Thursday. The swarms of locusts could destroy the livelihood of 12 million people. The loan will go to help a \$112-million project for buying trucks and equipment and spraying 6.5 million hectares (16 million acres) over two years. That is the expected duration of the locust plague that began in the Sudan and Mauritania in 1985 and has since swept across the Sahara to the north. The World Bank, which has 151 member countries, is the biggest source of aid money to the Third World. It will make this loan for 15 years, including a five-year grace period. During that period only interest will be payable at a variable rate beginning at 7.65 per cent a year.

Share prices turn mixed as overall performance seen weak

THE Alshah Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.17 points with a decrease of 0.87 points of 2.17 per cent from last week's average.

The Alshah index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 73.02 points with a decrease of 1.89 points 2.52 per cent for the same period, according to Alshah Economic Consultants.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 20.64 million shares at a daily average of 4.00 million shares with a decrease of 0.05 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 4.02 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 13.26 million shares at a daily average of 2.65 million shares with an increase of 137 per cent over last week's daily average of 1.12 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD8.78 million at a daily average of KD2.755 million, an increase of 14 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.545 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.710 million at a daily average of KD0.142 million, an increase of 125 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.071 million.

The market showed signs of mixed activity. Positive for the traded quantity in the non-Kuwaiti shares market and for the value of traded shares in both markets but more pronounced in the non-Kuwaiti market, and negative for share prices as these reached a level lower than before the Iran-Iraq ceasefire decision.

However, overall performance was weak as a result of the increase in local interest rates together with the increase in international share prices and investment alternatives in addition to the lower risk in international exchange rates against the Kuwaiti dinar.

Companies that bought a maximum of 10 per cent of their own shares at the end of last year, seem to be facing financial difficulties which are reflected in companies' inability to distribute cash dividends and are turning, as an alternative, to distributing dividends that are part in cash and the rest in stocks.

The table shows a comparison between 1988 and 1987 distributed dividends of companies that have already declared their financial positions.

From a total of nine companies listed in the Kuwaiti market, that have declared their dividend distribution for 1988, five companies have distributed stock dividends against only two companies for 1987.

The consequences of this kind of dividend distribution affects the companies in many respects.

First, the companies might face a greater burden at the time of next dividend distribution. Second, as a result of the actual stock dividends distribution, the market will be flooded again with companies shares, which produce an opposite result to the purchase of their own shares in order to decrease market supply.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector had the lead at 81 per cent of total trading against 51.5 per cent last week.

Kuwait Finance House had the lead at 27 per cent of total trading followed by the National Bank of Kuwait at 19 per cent and the Commercial Bank at 15 per cent. The Services Sector came second at 8 per cent in which Kuwait Commercial Markets led at 59 per cent, followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 24 per cent and Kuwait Computer Company at 11 per cent.

The investment sector came third at 5 per cent, of which National Investments led at 37 per cent, followed by Kuwait Investment Projects at 33 per cent and Investment Pearl Kuwait at 30 per cent.

For the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank led at 33 per cent followed by Umm Al Quain Cement Company at 30 per cent, and Arabian General Investments at 11 per cent.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wednesday 01/02/89	Wednesday 25/01/89	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bank	104.54	110.59	-3.04
Kuwait Finance House	104.54	110.59	-3.04
Commercial Bank	104.54	110.59	-3.04
Al Ahli Bank	31.72	33.16	-1.44
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	32.89	34.20	-1.32
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	30.95	30.95	—

Burgan Bank	26.26	26.26	—
Kuwait Finance House	75.59	78.61	-3.02
Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
Wednesday 01/02/89	25.71	25.71	—
Wednesday 25/01/89	17.53	17.53	—
Change points	71.43	75.40	-3.97
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	70.59	70.59	—
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	120.00	120.00	—
IFA	69.61	69.61	—
Commercial Facilities			
National Investments	93.26	97.75	-4.49
Kuwait Investment Proj.	40.83	41.28	-0.45
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	39.14	38.05	1.09
Gulf Insurance Co.	27.69	27.69	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	51.28	51.28	—
Warba Insurance Co.	68.73	68.73	—
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	22.43	22.43	—
United Realty	7.15	8.15	-1.01
National Real Estate	38.22	38.22	—
Services Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	12.27	12.27	—
Refrigeration Indust.	88.94	88.94	—
Gulf Cables	114.16	114.16	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	84.44	84.44	—
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	48.41	48.41	—
United Fisheries	9.92	9.92	—
Kuwait United Poultry	83.61	83.61	—
Kuwait Food Co.	67.82	67.82	—
Overall Index	39.17	40.04	-0.87

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wednesday 01/02/89	Wednesday 25/01/89	Change points
First Gulf Bank	144.74	163.16	-18.42
Bahrain Internat. Bank	96.55	95.55	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	98.71	100.61	-1.90
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	84.76	89.52	-4.76
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	51.52	53.03	-1.52
Umm Al Quain Cement	17.62	16.87	0.75
Gulf Medical Projects	21.46	20.83	0.63
Total Index	73.02	75.09	-1.89

A comparison of dividends for listed companies			
1988 against 1987			
The company name	For the year ended 31-12-1987	For the year ended 31-12-1988	
	Cash	Stock	Cash
Kuwaiti companies			
The National Bank	22	10	22
Kuwait Real Estate Bank	12	—	6
Kuwait Insurance Co.	15	—	10
Gulf Cables	60	—	25
National Industries	20	—	15
Refrigeration Industries	10	5	15
Kuwait Metal Systems	20	—	12
Mobile Telephone Systems	20	—	15
Kuwait Computer Co.	7.5	—	7.5
Non-Kuwaiti companies			
Bahrain International Bank	7	—	7

—Base Period 31/12/1983.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

IAIGC makes notable progress in its operations

KUWAIT, Feb 4, (KUNA): The supervisory committee of the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) held its first meeting for this year here today to look into the director-general's report on its activities last year.

An official source in the IAIGC said that the committee also reviewed the follow-up report on system of guaranteeing export credits and agenda of the corporation council's 16th session.

The committee, formed by the council to supervise IAIGC's activities and advise the director-general on those issues, has expressed satisfaction over achieved results.

The source said committee chairman Fahd Al Ibrahim affirmed that 1988 witnessed a notable progress in the guarantee operations with the value of contracts increasing to \$239 million from 1987 figure of \$157 million.

The export credit system had shared in boosting inter-Arab trade exchange, the source noted that value of inter-Arab trade within this system, since its application, had reached \$42 million in 1988, \$154 million in 1987 and \$206 million in 1988.

The corporation was established in 1975 by the Arab countries to encourage investments in the Arab nation through providing guarantees to Arab investments against non-commercial hazards in addition to promoting trade transactions among the Arab states through providing guarantees to export credit against commercial and non-commercial hazards.

Brazilian inflation rises to 70pc

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 4, (AP): Inflation rose to a record 70.28 per cent in seven weeks prior to the decree of emergency anti-inflation measures, the government has announced.

The cost of living in the past 12 months rose 1,410.64 per cent, also a record, the government said yesterday. Inflation in 1988 was 933 per cent.

The consumer price index was compiled by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, whose figures are accepted as official by the government.

The increase was led by a 108 per cent rise in personal expenses and a 75 per cent jump in transportation and communication costs, the institute said.

BA official on Mideast farewell tour



JIM HARRIS, (above) director of marketing for British Airways is currently making a farewell visit to the Middle East before his retirement at the end of March. Harris, who has been director of marketing since 1982, is retiring after 43 years with British Airways and BOAC, during which he served in many senior positions in Britain and abroad.

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways said: "He is a true airline professional and we shall greatly miss his unrivalled knowledge of both the industry and of its leading personalities."

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	575000	27
GULF BANK	0.360	0.355	0.355	0.335	60000	4
COMMERCIAL BK	0.270	0.260	0.265	0.260	330000	15
ARAB BANK	0.330	0.325	0.325	0.320	210000	13
B.K.M.E.	0.375	—	—	—	—	—
K.R.E.B.	0.390	—	—	—	—	—
BURGAN BANK	0.265	0.255	0.260	0.255	680000	28
K.F.HOUSE	0.500	0.460	0.495	0.455	790000	34

INVESTMENT SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
KUT INV. CO.	0.102	—	—	—	—	—
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	—	—	—	—	—
K.J.J.C.	0.140	—	—	—	—	—
COM.FACILITIES	0.480	—	—	—	—	—
ARABIA INV.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
I.F.A.	0.096	—	—	—	—	—
INV. PEARL KUT	0.090	—	—	—	—	—
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.720	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INSURANCE	0.360	—	—	—	—	—
ARABIA INS. CO.	0.580	—	—	—	—	—
WARBA INS. CO.	0.400	—	—	—	—	—

REAL ESTATE SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.176	0.168	0.168	0.168	20000	1
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	140000	3
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.192	—	—	—	—	—
SALHIAN R.E.	0.080	—	—	—	—	—
KUT R.E.I.COM	0.000	—	—	—	—	—

INDUSTRY SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NAT IND. CO.	0.540	—	—	—	—	—
KUT M.P. IND.	0.320	—	—	—	—	—
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.180	—	—	—	—	—
REF. IND. CO.	0.405	—	—	—	—	—
N.A.K.T. CO.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF CABLE	1.110	—	—	—	—	—
K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.190	—	—	—	—	—
CONT. MARINE	0.280	—	—	—	—	—
K.S.H. REP. CO.	0.045	—	—	—	—	—

SERVICES SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
OVERLAND TRANS	0.082	—	—	—	—	—
K.N.C. CO.	0.180	—	—	—	—	—
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.170	—	—	—	—	—
P. WAREHOUSING	0.116	—	—	—	—	—
COM. MCT. CHPK.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	240000	3
MOBILE TELE.	0.295	0.290	0.295	0.290	30000	3
KUT COMPUTER	0.154	—	—	—	—	—
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.238	—	—	—	—	—
UNIT FISHERIES	0.140	—	—	—	—	—
UNIT POULTY	0.228	—	—	—	—	—
KUT FOODS	0.295	0.295	0.295	0.295	20000	1
AGRI. FOOD PRO.	0.150	—	—	—	—	—

NON-KUWAIT BANKING	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
B.H. INTER. BK	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	360000	3
B.H. M. EAST. BK	0.052	—	—	—	—	—
UNIT. GULF BK	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
COAST INVEST.	0.089	0.090	0.090	0.090	40000	1
A.G. INV. CORP	0.034	—	—	—	—	—
FIRST GULF BK	0.550	—	—	—	—	—
GULF MEDICAL	0.034	—	—	—	—	—

Japan posts '88 current account surplus of \$79.5b

TOKYO, Feb 4, (AP): Japan's current account surplus shrank in 1988 for the first time in seven years, falling 8.7 per cent to \$79.48 billion from \$87.01 billion in 1987, the Finance Ministry announced yesterday.

In the month of December, the nation's current account surplus shrank to \$9.274 billion from \$9.435 billion a year earlier, although it grew from \$6.762 billion in November 1988, the ministry said.

The current account is the broadest measure of a nation's international financial flows, and includes trade, investment, tourism and other transactions.

Japan's trade surplus also declined 1.7 per cent during the year to \$94.789 billion from \$96.386 billion the previous year. It was the first annual drop in the trade surplus in six years, ministry officials said.

The decline in the current account surplus was due primarily to the growing number of Japanese travelling overseas and increasing payments of patent royalties, ministry officials said.

A record 8.40 million Japanese travellers spent a record \$15.76 billion abroad in 1988, compared to the previous year's \$8.66 billion, ministry officials said.

But the drop in the current account surplus does not necessarily give reason for optimism, according to Finance Ministry officials. "We can't say whether the downturn is going to continue," one ministry official said. "It depends on a lot of things, like oil prices."

A rise in oil prices would increase Japan's import bills and result in a reduction in the current account surplus.

Exports and imports last year, as measured when contracts were settled, were at record highs, with exports reaching \$259.555 billion, surpassing the previous record of \$244.605 billion in 1987. Imports came to \$164.766 billion, far more than the prior record of \$129.555 billion in 1981.

Japan includes freight and insurance costs in its import figures, but not in its exports.

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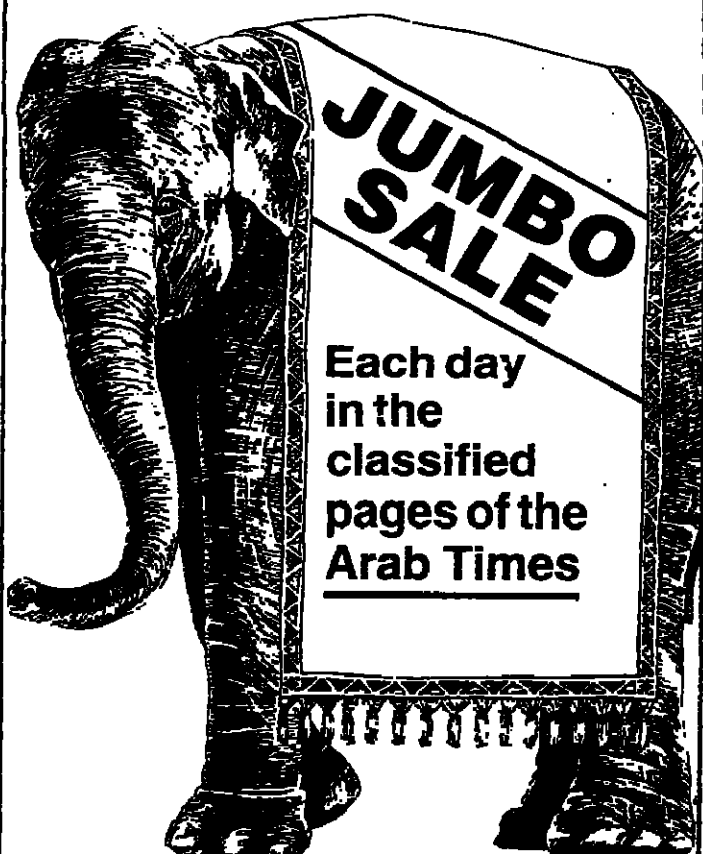
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کابل میں سموریت فوجوں کا سٹیج برٹوفا خلیفہ شاہزادہ اسلام علی کے لئے مقرر تھا وہ لوگوں کو پیش کیا کہ ان کا بل عربی آؤ گے کی حفاظت پر سامور ہے ،

سویت یونین کے نائب وزیر خارجہ مذاکرات کیلئے تھران پہنچ گئے

اسکول کے احاطہ میں سربراہی کی فلاحی کمرہ سے منسلک خطی مہم

پاکستان کی قومی اسمبلی

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سید ابراہیم حسین

ایک بڑا اسلامی ملک ہے، قرون وسطیٰ کے زمانے کی غلطی کرتے ہوئے اس پر برطانوی اور امریکی کے غریب گروہ کے ہاتھ کی غلطی ہو گئی ہے۔ کیا کہہ سکتے ہیں کہ یہ ملک جس طرح کے انقلاب پر آمادہ ہے؟

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حراس نے ملین روایت ہونے سے کل ہوئی اٹھ سے نو روزہ پر انعام راجہ
کاؤمی کے ساتھ نصف گیلے کبکٹ جوت کی جس کا پلے سے کوئی
ہوگا کس میں قلہ نہیں ڈھٹ آسٹھ کے حلال ہوئی کے ہوئی

ارک میں سیکرٹری جنرل سے ملاقات کریں گے

کے لیے ان لوہے عراق میں جنم اٹھ کر محمد کے قریبی بھائی کے قیام کی
 یہاں ۳۰ جہر تک یہاں ہی رہے۔ سلاطین کو نسل کے نام ایک
 خمری و ہر ہنر مند کے شہر ہوا۔

کیوبا میں سی سی سمار خانہ میں کیا
ہوا۔ ۳۰ فروری (رائٹر) کیوبا کے دلدار حکومت ہوائیوں کی
قلطین کا سفر تختہ کھول دیا گیا جو کسی بھی امریکی ملک میں پہلا

قوی افرادی قوت کو ترقی دی جائے گی، جدید ٹیکنالوجی کو وسعت دی جا رہی ہے

آج کلے

اسی جیسے شام اور ایران کے کہیں ہونے والے ایک مجسمے کے لیے
میں غل میں کھڑی ہے۔ چتر خروار کے ساحلی اہل اور حب اللہ
لیجیوں کے کہیں حدادت بر فاضل کی رہائی کے سلسلے میں ایک

[illegible]

جنرل روڈریگو نے پیراگوئے کے صدر کاٹمندہ سنبھال لیا

جس کی طرح ہر عرصہ کے عرصہ کا حلقہ انسانی لہر تھا۔ کیا کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ حکومت کا کاروبار چلانے میں اس حال ہی زندگی سے کام لیں گے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ انہوں نے صورتوں میں کوئی تبدیلی نہ کی۔

کے درمیان لوگ ہلاک ہوئے جس کی وجہ سے سرحدوں کی کسی خبر نہ پہنچ سکی۔ وہاں فریج اور بختیار نے درمیان میں ٹھہر کر اپنے

AUSTRALIA SCORE 515 IN FINAL TEST

Jones blasts West Indies for 216

ADELAIDE, Australia, Feb 4. (Reuters): Dean Jones, with a masterly 216, and number 10 Merv Hughes who hit a swash-buckling 72 not out, scored their highest first class scores to put Australia in control of the fifth and final Test today.

The pair's record ninth wicket partnership for Australia against West Indies of 114 helped the home side reach 515 in their first innings.

At stumps West Indies were 74 for one, scored at over a run a minute on a docile batting wicket.

Jones, 131 not out overnight, continued where he left off yesterday, frustrating the West Indies pace attack with cheeky singles and powerfully-struck boundaries.

Tactics

He never gave a clear chance and was helped by strange tactics from West Indies captain Viv Richards and a stream of no-balls from the four-pronged pace attack. Over 50 no-balls were called, 40 of which were not scored off.

Richards applied no pressure on Jones, allowing him easy runs while concentrating on the lower order batsmen, a tactic which failed completely when Hughes came to the wicket.

Jones' innings, which included 16 fours, eclipsed his 210 not out in Madras in September 1986 in



Jones: gets his highest score

the tied first Test against India. It was also the highest innings by an Australian against West Indies in Adelaide.

After Australia, resuming at

283 for three, lost four wickets in the first session Jones put the innings back on track with two fine partnerships with Tim May and Hughes.

May helped put on 50 for the eighth wicket before giving Curtly Ambrose his third wicket, caught by Richie Richardson at second slip for 24.

Jones was joined at the wicket by Hughes who combined courage, luck and fine judgement to put Australia out of danger of defeat.

Hughes, his country's latest cricket folk hero, was repeatedly hit on the body and head. He took the punishment without complaint, answering the onslaught with six fours in his 142-minute stay at the crease.

Jones reached his double century in the last over before tea, hitting Courtney Walsh for three. But he was upstaged by Hughes who hit the last ball before the interval for six over midwicket.

Jones' 538-minute stay came to a disappointing end when he was run out by Desmond Haynes. Haynes hit the stumps directly from mid-wicket as Jones did not bother to ground his bat.

Hughes, whose previous highest score in Tests was 21, added another 18 with Michael Whitney before the number 11 gave Patrick Patterson his first wicket in 31 overs of trying.

Ambrose finished with three for 93 and Walsh three for 120. Gordon Greenidge was dismissed for 12 by left-arm Mike Whitney, when he played on with

the score on 19. But Haynes, 22 not out at the close, and Richardson, 39, showed West Indies should make the most of the batting conditions.

Richardson looked in superb touch, hitting seven fours in 55 minutes at the crease.

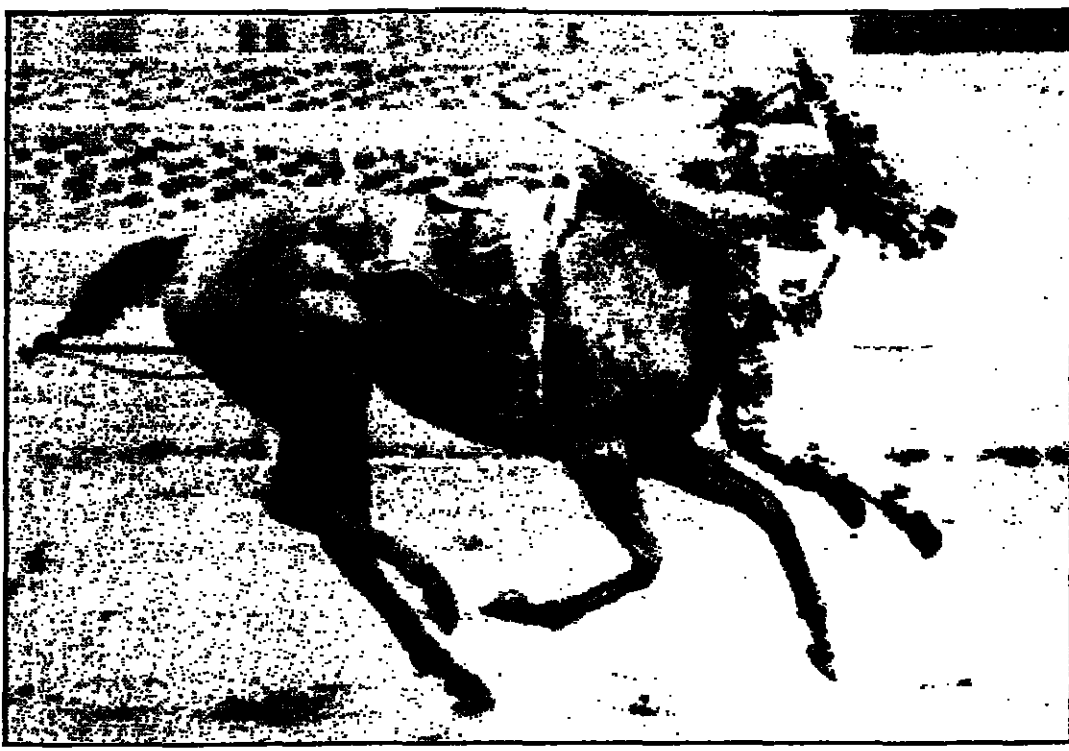
Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA (283 for three over- night)	
G. Marsh c Dejon b Ambrose	21
M. Taylor run out	3
D. Boon c Richardson b Ambrose	34
D. Jones run out	216
A. Border b Marshall	64
S. Waugh c Dejon b Walsh	12
I. Healy lbw b Walsh	0
T. Holmes c Hooper b Walsh	9
T. May c Richardson b Ambrose	24
M. Hughes not out	72
M. Whitney c Dejon b Patterson	2
Extras (lb-16 ab-40)	58
Total	515

Fall of wickets: 1-72 (43-75-4-289 5-311 6-311 7-333 8-383 9-497)	
Bowling: Marshall 23-3-67-1 (12ab), Patterson 30-5-1-130-1 (15ab), Ambrose 26-4-93-3 (12ab), Walsh 33-5-120-3 (1ab), Hooper 3-0- 14-0, Richardson 25-1-73-0.	

WEST INDIES	
G. Greenidge b Whitney	12
D. Haynes not out	22
R. Richardson not out	39
Extras (lb-11)	1
Total (for one wicket)	74

Fall of wickets: 1-19	
To bat: C. Hooper, V. Richards, G. Logie, J. Dejon, M. Marshall, C. Ambrose, C. Walsh, P. Patterson.	
Bowling: Hughes 7-0-37-0, White- M. 23-26-1, May 3-2-6-0, Waugh 1- 0-4-0.	



Apprentice jockey Nate Hubbard manages to hang on to Sweetwater Oak in a race at Golden Gate Fields, Albany, California, on Friday. Hubbard hung up around the neck of his mount when the horse slipped, but still finished second. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hearns still haunted by 1981 Leonard fight

LAS VEGAS, Feb 4. (Reuters): Time may heal the wounds of most people but after more than seven years Thomas Hearns is still hurting.

Hearns has been haunted by his 1981 loss to Sugar Ray Leonard and was nearly obsessed with getting a rematch against Leonard, one of only three men to beat him.

He finally got his wish when Leonard agreed recently to fight him here in June for a world super middleweight title.

Version

It has not been announced whether they will fight for Leonard's World Boxing Council (WBC) super middleweight title or Hearns' World Boxing Organisation (WBO) version of the new weight class.

Hearns, 46-3, is almost equally determined to gain rematches against Marvellous Marvin Hagler and Iran Barkley, the only other men to have beaten him.

"When I'm successful against Ray Leonard then I'll go for Marvin Hagler," Hearns said yesterday at a news conference. He said he also wants to fight Barkley, who knocked him out

last June to win the WBC middleweight title.

"I want those three losses back," said Hearns. "When I retire I want to go down as one of the greatest boxers in history."

Hearns probably has a better chance of getting Barkley in the ring again than Hagler, who retired with his own haunting memories of Leonard.

Leonard, 35-1, came out of retirement for only his second fight in five years to stunningly upset Hagler in April 1987 for the world welterweight title. After the loss Hagler went into a deep funk which he has yet to shake off.

The 1981 Leonard-Hearns bout is considered one of the best fights of the decade. After a seesaw battle, Leonard stopped Hearns in the 14th round.

Leonard, 32, fought last in November when he knocked out Canadian Donny Lalonde to win the super middleweight title.

Hearns said by watching the fight "I learned that Leonard is much easier to hit and he's a lot slower."

Hearns, 30, said yesterday that after he beats Leonard he thinks he can entice Hagler out of retirement to fight him.

Lyle and Calcavecchia share lead

LOS ANGELES, Feb 4. (AP): Sandy Lyle of Scotland shot a 5-under-par 66 yesterday and took a share of the second-round lead before rain caused an overnight suspension of play in the \$1 million Los Angeles Open.

"My kind of weather," said Lyle, the Masters title, who played in weather conditions more typical of his native Scotland than Southern California — drizzle and temperatures in the 40s F (below 10 C).

The morning drizzle gave way to steady afternoon showers that flooded some greens on the Riviera Country Club course and forced officials to suspend play in early afternoon.

About half the field had completed play at that point. Lyle and Mark Calcavecchia were tied for the lead at 134, eight under par.

Completed

The weather "didn't bother me a bit. It was very playable," said Calcavecchia, who completed a bogey-free 66 before play was delayed.

Veteran Hale Irwin, Mike Reid, Tom Purtzer and all at 137, shared third place among those who completed play. They were three back of the early co-leaders.

Irwin, still bothered by a lingering headache from being hit in head by a shot during Wednesday's Pro-Am, had a 67.

Purtzer shot 66. Reid had a 69 and Sauers shot 70, one under par.

Mark Brooks and Steve Pate, who shared the first-round lead with Sauers at 66, were among the group stranded on the course.

Pate took two more strokes off par and was six under for the tournament through eight holes of the second round.

DARTS

Soarers hold Tossers to 3-3 draw

WITH several postponements in the KBRC Monday Darts League, attention was once more focused on Wednesday League action. Shock of the day was the second from bottom side Dinar Soarers holding fourth placed Shower of Tossers to a 3-3 draw, having at one stage been 3-1 in front.

Leading the way with 4-high scores was Frank Hess, but he still missed out 2-1 to Pete O'Dowd to provide Tossers with their only singles victory. Flies continued on their way towards the Ladies League title by disposing of Lady Tossers 2-0.

Men's leaders H2O had a comfortable 6-0 win over Entente Geordiale, Though Ohtoml won the ladies encounter 2-0. The match of the day was when second placed Soweto Slingers entertained nearest rivals Bulls Hitters. All games were went to 2-1 as Slingers built up a 3-1 lead, and then did just enough to take both points 4-2.

High scores a plenty, with 4 each for Graham Warner and John Donovan, and 3 for Ian Thomas and Bob Cole in a total of 18 on the night. In his farewell appearance for Hitters, Gordon McAllister finished his last leg with 113 to keep the match alive.

Contest

BH ladies, however, made amends by beating Avengers 2-1 in another excellent hard fought contest. Equaters are now 3rd, thanks to narrow 4-2 and 3-1 victories over Chuckers, with 3 high scores from Ihsan Soboh. Nobblers continued to live up to their name, this week taking a point off Middle Eastenders in a 3-3 draw, although Mee ladies continued their recent return to form winning 2-0.

Has Beans came out 4-2 winners over Menage A Trois, thanks to some inspired Mickey Mouse play, MAT ladies again reversing their men's result with a 2-0 success over Human Beans. Ron McGrath again led the Roundels by example scoring 5 high scores, as they completed the season's double over Fintas Flyers, as Rondelettes also won 2-1.

In those games played in the KBRC Monday League, Bagges took full advantage by beating Wallbangers 4-2 to go joint top with Straight As A Dai, as Queens maintained their challenge for the ladies League, 2-0 winners over Nightflights. Tanker Co. took 4th place, defeating Ragamuffins 4-2, while Ragbags sneaked past Tanker Co. ladies 2-1. Bandit ladies won again 2-1, but Pacificists recorded their third win, 4-2, to move ahead of Bandits in the table.

Martin reaches third round

HELSINKI, Feb 4. (Reuters): Australia's top-seeded Rodney Martin slammed his way into the third round of the Finnish Open squash event yesterday, winning 15-5 15-5 15-7 over Swede Fredrik Johnson.

But Pakistan's Umar Hayat Khan, the second seed, had to fight through five games to beat England's Paul Gregory.

"It went the way I expected it to," Martin said after the match.

Harper helps Cavaliers rout Kings

NEW YORK, Feb 4. (AP): Ron Harper had 28 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists last night as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Sacramento Kings 110-94 for their 14th straight home victory.

Cleveland trailed by three at halftime but outscored the Kings 68-49 in the second half behind 16 second-half points each by Harper and Mark Price.

The Kings, who lost their fifth straight, led 53-46 after Lasalle Thompson hit a layup with 8:50 to play in the third quarter.

Price then made an 18-foot jumper to start a 24-9 Cleveland surge, during which he scored 10 points and Harper scored eight, putting the Cavaliers ahead 70-62. Cleveland led by at least five the rest of the way.

Rookie Ricky Berry scored 24 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter, to lead Sacramento. Brad Daugherty scored 24 points for the Cavaliers, who have the NBA's best record at 33-10.

In other National Basketball Association games yesterday, Boston defeated Washington 117-108; Milwaukee beat Indiana 109-91; Charlotte edged Seattle 108-106; Detroit slammed Philadelphia 124-106;



Darrell Walker (left) of the Washington Bullets drives against Brian Shaw of Boston Celtics. (Reuters wirephoto)

Houston beat Chicago 105-98; Dallas defeated Phoenix 121-117; Los Angeles routed Portland 140-129; Utah defeated New Jersey 129-101; and San Antonio slipped by the Los Angeles Clippers 106-101.

Celtics 117, Bullets 108 Reggie Lewis scored 32 points and the Boston Celtics climbed back to .500 for the first time since Dec 21, beating the Washington Bullets 117-108.

Bucks 109, Pacers 91 Terry Cummings had 24 points and 22 rebounds, while reserve Ricky Pierce had 17 points in the fourth quarter and 25 of his 29 in the second half, leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a 109-91 victory over Indiana.

Hornets 108, Sonics 106 Tim Kempton scored on a layup off a perfect feed from Robert Reid with two seconds left, giving the Charlotte Hornets

a 108-106 victory over the Seattle Supersonics.

Pistons 124, 76ers 106 Adrian Dantley scored 33 points, Isiah Thomas added 27 and the Detroit Pistons never trailed while defeating the Philadelphia 76ers 124-106 for their 12th victory in 14 games.

Rockets 105, Bulls 98 Akem Oluajuwon scored eight of his 20 points in the first four minutes of the fourth period, leading the Houston Rockets to a 105-98 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Mavericks 121, Suns 117 Mark Aguirre, rumored to be on the trading block, returned after a one-game absence to score 36 points, carrying the Dallas Mavericks to a 121-117 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Lakers 140, Trail Blazers 129 Magic Johnson scored 17 of his 29 points in the first quarter and the Los Angeles Lakers rebounded from their worst loss of the season by hammering the Portland Trail Blazers 140-129.

Jazz 128, Nets 101 Karl Malone scored 28 points and added a career-high nine assists as the Utah Jazz routed the New Jersey Nets 129-101.

E.Germans and Soviets triumph

PARIS, Feb 4. (Reuters): East Germany and the Soviet Union marked out their territory by winning five of the eight events at a World Cup swimming meeting yesterday.

Without threatening any records, East Germans Andre Matz, Manuela Stellmach and Christian Poswiat took three of the races.

Matz won the men's 200 metres freestyle in one minute, 47.54 seconds. Stellmach the women's 200 metres freestyle in 1:58.93 and Poswiat the men's 200 metres breaststroke.

The Soviet Union's Ulia Bogacheva beat East Germany's Daniela Brendel by one stroke in the women's 200 metres.

Butler injures leg in 200 metres

COSFORD, England, Feb 4. (AP): Veteran American sprinter James Butler pulled up with a leg injury during the semifinals of the 200 metres last night at the British National Indoor Track Championships, spoiling an anticipated showdown with Britain's Linford Christie.

Butler, one of several guest runners at the British championships, was coming off a turn when he began hopping in pain and clutching the back of his thigh.

"I was coming off the bend and I just felt something go, so I began to pull up immediately and out of the race," Butler said. "As it is, I think it is just a slight twinge and I will be off training

for a week and then ease myself back in and be ready for the American championships."

Butler, who had run a 200-metre qualifying heat less than two hours earlier, said it was "the first time I had run two races on top of each other and I wanted to see how far that would push me."

"I hope it is just a minor injury, because we have our own championships indoors coming up on the 18th of February," he said.

The 27-year-old Butler was the top-ranked 200-metre runner in the world in 1982 and holds the US indoor record of 20.64 seconds. A week ago in France he recorded a 20.83, the world's best this year.

Christie, silver medallist in the

100 metres at the Seoul Olympics, breezed into the 200-metre final with a time of 21.22 in his first competitive race since the Olympics.

His time was the best ever run in the British indoor championships and came just one week after he had pulled out of a Britain-West Germany dual meet because of a hamstring injury.

In yesterday's only finals, Matthew Simson won the men's shot put with a British junior record of 18.21 metres. Myrtle Augue captured the women's shot put with a toss of 17.40 metres and the women's long jump was won by Nicole Boegman with a jump of 6.51 metres.

Joyner-Kersee equals world record twice

NEW YORK, Feb 4. (AP): Jackie Joyner-Kersee, among the world's outstanding female athletes, twice equalled the world indoor best in the women's 55-metre hurdles last night in the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden.

Joyner-Kersee, the 1988 Olympic champion in the heptathlon and the long jump, was timed in 7.37 seconds in winning her semifinal heat, then came back and matched that in the final.

The clocking tied the mark set by Cornelia Oschkenat of East Germany at New York in 1987.

Challenged

Joyner-Kersee, the world record-holder in the heptathlon and the American record-holder in the long jump, had said her goal this year was to break records in three hurdles events—the 55 metres indoors and the 100 metres and 400 metres outdoors.

In both races yesterday, she was out quickly and was never seriously challenged. In the final, 1984 Olympic bronze medallist Kim McKenzie finished a distant second in 7.47.

Joyner-Kersee had mixed emotions about not going under the old mark.

"Tying it means a lot to me, because I didn't have one (an

indoor mark)," she said. "I think I can go 7.35 and even better." Joyner-Kersee said.

In the men's 55-metre hurdles, Jack Pierce, the least heralded of the six finalists, won in 7.07.

Pierce was aided by a faulty finish by Renaldo Nehemiah, the world outdoor record-holder in the 110-metre hurdles.

Nehemiah appeared to have a slight edge before smashing into the final two hurdles. He wound up second in 7.10, nipping two-time Olympic champion Roger Kingdom, who had the same time. Kingdom was slow out of the blocks, after having been called for a false start and never was able to overtake the two frontrunners.

Tonie Campbell, the Olympic bronze medallist, finished fourth in 7.15, and was followed by 1988 Olympic finalist Arthur Blake and 1988 Olympic 400-metre intermediate hurdles champion Andre Phillips.

"This is a major step for me," Pierce said. "I hope it's not my last. It's my biggest thrill in track."

Gwen Torrence, unbeaten indoors since 1986, scored her 22nd consecutive victory in a final, taking the women's 55-metre dash in 6.68.

Lee McRae, who holds the world indoor best in the men's



Joyner-Kersee (left) and McKenzie clear a hurdle in the finals. (Reuters wirephoto)

55-metre dash, was far off his best time of 6.00, but still was good enough to win in 6.14.

Raymond Stewart of Jamaica, a 1988 Olympic finalist, finished second in 6.18.

In the 3,000 metres, Morocco's Said Aouita, the 1984 Olympic champion at 5,000 metres, won a close decision over Doug Padilla of the United States, five-time winner at that distance in

these Games. Aouita's time was 7:47.07 to Padilla's 7:47.35.

The featured mile events for men and women provided fast finishes. In the Wamamaker mile, Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland successfully defended his title from last year, clocking 3:54.27.

O'Sullivan took the lead from Sydney Maree of the United States with 2 1/2 laps to go and sprinted quickly to the end. Maree's time was 3:58.37.

Closed

Romanian Olympic 1,500 metres champion Paula Ivan won the women's mile in 4:23.72, holding off Mary Slaney of the United States, who closed at the end to finish second in 4:23.91.

Rany Barnes, the world indoor record-holder in the men's shot put, won at 72 feet, 7 inches (22.12 metres), the second-longest effort ever by an American. Barnes, who set the world mark of 74-4.25 (22.66) on Jan 20, easily raised the meet mark of 68-11.25 (21.01), set by George Woods and Al Feuerbach in 1974.

Carla Garrett established the meet record in the women's shot put with a heave of 52-1.75 (15.89). It was the first time the event was held in the meet's 82-year history.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Peace prize

ZURICH, Feb 4, (Reuters): The International Football Federation (FIFA) has nominated Joao Havelange, its Brazilian chairman, for this year's Nobel peace prize. It said in a brief statement issued yesterday that it had proposed Havelange for the prize during a FIFA congress held last July.

Indian cricketer

CHANDIGARH, India, Feb 4, (Reuters): A Punjab court yesterday ordered the prosecution to present its case against a plea by Indian cricketer Navjot Singh to go on a West Indies tour while facing a charge of culpable homicide. The court will on Monday hear the prosecution's arguments against Singh's plea for a lifting of travel restrictions imposed on him after he was accused of beating a motorist to death.

John Emburey

LONDON, Feb 4, (Reuters): A London judge banned former England cricket captain John Emburey from driving for 15 months today after he pleaded guilty to drinking and driving. The court heard how Emburey, 36, was arrested after police found him slumped at the wheel of his car while waiting in a London traffic queue.

VSC soccer

VARCA Sporting Centre (VSC) will organise its 6th annual one day 7-a-side soccer festival on Feb 25 at Al Sour grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Feb 24 at 10 am. For further details contact any VSC member.

Grand Prix

PARIS, Feb 4, (Reuters): Phoenix will stage the US Grand Prix motor race for the next five years, the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) announced today.

Desert Orchid

LONDON, Feb 4, (Reuters): Gallant grey Desert Orchid produced another superb jumping performance today, reviving memories of Arkle, the great steeplechaser of the 1960s. Simon Sherwood rode the 10-year-old to a three-quarter-length success over highly-rated Pegwell Bay in a valuable Handicap Chase at Sandown Park.

NL president

NEW YORK, Feb 4, (AP): Bill White was elected the next president of baseball's National League yesterday, becoming the first black to head an American professional sports league.

Morten Frost

WIMBLEDON, England, Feb 4, (UPI): Former world No. 1 Morten Frost is a surprise entry for the Surrey badminton championships at Wimbledon Feb 27-March 4.

Girardelli wins

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado, Feb 4, (AP): Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli, the hottest skier on the World Cup men's circuit, flashed to the gold medal in the men's combined competition yesterday at the World Alpine Ski Championships.

Pakistan match

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Feb 4, (Reuters): Rain forced play to be abandoned without a ball being bowled on the second day of the first Pakistan-New Zealand cricket Test today.

The first day was also called off because of rain. With rain still falling and forecasters saying more is on the way, prospects looked dim for a start on the third day.

Dunedin's Carisbrook pitch was expected to give bowlers enough assistance to produce a result.

NEWCASTLE HOLD LIVERPOOL TO 2-2 DRAW

Clough helps Forest edge Luton

LONDON, Feb 4, (Reuters): Nigel Clough seized the chance to impress England soccer manager Bobby Robson with a goal in each half as Nottingham Forest won 3-2 away to Luton today and maintained their First Division title hopes.

Robson was on hand to watch the four Forest members of his England squad, Stuart Pearce, Steve Hodge, Neil Webb and Des Walker, but it was Clough who caught the eye.

A first half penalty and then a superbly executed free kick from 25 metres out 16 minutes from the end added to Gary Parker's opening goal and gave Forest full points.

But the victory took them no closer to leaders Arsenal and second-placed Norwich, who both won 2-1, Arsenal at home to lowly London neighbours West Ham and Norwich away to struggling Charlton.

Managing
Arsenal head the First Division by three points with 47 points from 22 games, one less than the challenging teams. Coventry maintained third place on goal difference despite managing only a 1-1 draw away to Middlesbrough but were joined on 37 points by Forest, who moved up one place into fourth.

The threatened challenge by champions Liverpool failed to materialise as they were held to a 2-2 draw by last-placed Newcastle.

Newcastle, who pulled off a shock 2-1 win at Anfield in October, threatened a repeat performance on their own territory as they twice took the lead through their foreign imports Mirandinha and Frank Pingel.

Once again, however, it was the double act of Ian Rush and John Aldridge who spared Liverpool's blushes.

It took the Brazilian only three minutes to open the scoring when goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar and Steve Nicol both hesitated



Mirandinha: scored the first goal for Newcastle

as he nipped in to score from the tightest of angles.

Rush banged home the equaliser from close range after 15 minutes but Newcastle, playing far better than their position in the table indicated, were unlucky not to have led at the break when a superb 35-metre drive from Mirandinha hit the post.

The second half was only four minutes old when Danish striker Pingel rose above the Liverpool defence to head home his first goal for Newcastle and put them

back in the lead.

But their joy was short-lived and within 60 seconds Aldridge headed Liverpool back onto level terms.

The draw left Liverpool 11 points adrift of Arsenal and plenty of work to do if they are not to surrender their championship crown.

Newcastle manager Jim Smith drew comfort from the result. "We turned in a very encouraging performance, but a couple of silly little mistakes cost

us victory. If we can learn from today and go on from there then we have a great chance of avoiding relegation," he said.

The point lifted them one place off the bottom, ahead of West Ham.

Alan Smith, included in England's squad for their friendly match against Greece next week, boosted his chances of making the team by grabbing Arsenal's second goal in their win over West Ham.

His 17th of the season in the 61st minute followed the opening goal by Perry Groves four minutes earlier and ensured maximum points for Arsenal, although Julian Dicks hit a consolation effort for West Ham six minutes from the end.

Results

English Division One	
Arsenal	2
Aston Villa	2
Charlton	1
Derby	3
Everton	1
Luton	2
Middlesbrough	1
Newcastle	2
QPR	1
Reading	1
Sheffield Wednesday	1
Tottenham	1
Watford	1
West Ham	1
Wolves	1
York City	1

Playing Sunday: Manchester United v Tottenham

English Division Two	
Barnley	2
Blackpool	2
Bournemouth	1
Ipswich	1
Leeds	1
Leicester	1
Oldham	1
Plymouth	1
Portsmouth	1
Shrewsbury	1
Walsall	1
Wrexham	1

Playing Sunday: Swindon v Oxford

English Division Three	
Aldershot	1
Blackpool	1
Bristol R.	1
Bury	1
Chester	1
Fulham	1
Gillingham	1
Notts County	1
Port Vale	1
Sheffield U.	1
Southend	1
Swansea	1

Playing Sunday: Swindon v Oxford

English Division Four	
Barnley	1
Carlisle	1
Crewe	1
Doncaster	1
Exeter	1
Grimsby	1
Hartlepool	1
Lincoln	1
Mansfield	1
Notts County	1
Peterborough	1
Scunthorpe	1
Shrewsbury	1
Walsall	1
Wrexham	1

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Standings

ENGLISH League soccer tables after matches played today (tablets under - played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)	
English Division One	
Arsenal	22 12 5 3 48 23 47
Norwich	23 12 5 3 35 28 44
Coventry	23 10 7 6 32 37
Notts Forest	23 9 10 4 34 26 37
Liverpool	23 9 9 5 30 20 36
Millwall	22 10 6 6 34 28 36
Derby	22 10 5 7 26 17 35
Manchester U	22 8 9 5 31 19 33
Everton	22 8 7 7 27 31
Middlesbrough	23 8 6 9 30 35 30
Aston Villa	23 8 6 9 33 36 29
Wimbledon	22 8 5 9 26 30 29
Tottenham	22 6 8 8 33 34 26
Luton	23 6 8 9 26 29 26
Southampton	23 6 8 9 26 29 26
QPR	23 6 8 9 26 29 26
Charlton	23 5 8 10 23 34 23
Sheffield Wed	23 5 8 10 23 34 23
Newcastle	23 4 6 13 19 42 18
West Ham	23 4 4 14 20 41 17

English Division Two

Chelsea	27 14 9 4 56 27 51
Manchester C	27 14 8 5 39 28 50
Watford	27 14 8 5 39 28 50
Blackpool	27 14 8 5 39 28 50
West Bromwich	27 12 9 6 45 26 45
Crystal P	26 11 8 7 41 33 41
Barnsley	27 11 8 8 36 41
Leeds	27 10 10 7 33 25 40
Ipswich	27 12 4 11 42 35 40
Sunderland	27 10 10 7 36 29 40
Bournemouth	27 12 4 11 30 44 40
Stoke	27 11 7 9 34 34 40
Portsmouth	27 10 8 9 37 38 38
Plymouth	27 10 6 11 35 39 36
Leicester	27 9 9 9 33 37 36
Hull	27 9 8 10 36 39 35
Swindon	25 8 10 7 33 34
Bradford	27 7 10 10 27 33 31
Oxford	26 8 6 12 41 40 30
Brighton	27 8 6 12 38 45 29
Oldham	27 9 12 42 46 27
Shrewsbury	27 4 11 12 22 40 23
Walsall	27 4 7 16 19 50 19
Wrexham	27 2 8 17 21 51 14

Ireland fight back to outlast Wales

CARDIFF, Feb 4, (Reuters): Second half tries to Noel Mannion and Paul Dean helped Ireland to a 19-13 win over Wales in their Five Nations Rugby Union second round match at Cardiff Arms Park today.

It was the third successive victory for Ireland at the Arms Park and Wales' sixth defeat in their last seven internationals.

Spell

Two penalties within the first 20 minutes by Welsh fullback and captain Paul Thorburn gave Wales a 6-0 lead at halftime after a hard-fought first spell.

But the Irish stormed back with three penalties by Michael Kiernan then a spectacular 70-metre try by number eight Mannion put the visitors 13-6 ahead.

Thorburn kicked a third penalty and Welsh number eight Mark Jones scored a try to level the score at 13-13 before Ireland made the vital break.

Welsh scrumhalf Robert Jones, under pressure inside his own 22, dropped the ball and flyhalf Dean pounced for the winning score.

And in London, England and

Scotland drew 12-12 in a Five Nations Rugby Union match full of red-blooded action but only one try at Twickenham today.

There was little doubt England should have won. Their back row trio of Andy Robinson, Dean Richards and Mike Teague were in rampant form and nearly all the quality possession was on their side.

That they failed to take full advantage of their superiority was due to horribly inept kicking with flyhalf Rob Andrew and fullback Jon Webb missing seven penalties between them.

The Scots showed the same spirit they displayed in their first round win over Ireland and their unswerving commitment was exemplified by their captain and flanker Finlay Calder.

Standings

Standings after the second round of the Five Nations Rugby Union championship today (tablets under - played, won, drawn, lost, points for, against, points)	
Scotland	2 1 0 0 35 19 3
France	1 1 0 0 26 21 2
Ireland	2 1 0 1 40 39 3
England	1 0 0 1 12 12 1
Wales	2 0 0 2 20 42 0

Third round, February 18: France v Wales, Ireland v England.



● Mamdou Sabri, who won the 17-week annual Dunhill Bridge Tournament last Sunday, receives his prize from Joseph Mathew (left) and Miss Dunhill (Joan Voorman). The prize distribution ceremony was held at the Sheraton Hotel on Tuesday.

Austria knock Australia out in Davis Cup shock

VIENNA, Feb 4, (Reuters): Austria turned the tennis form book upside down today when they knocked Australia out of the Davis Cup with a five-set victory in the doubles.

The Austrians, playing for the first time in the world group, secured an unassailable 3-0 lead in the first round tie when Thomas Muster and Alexander Antonitsch beat ex-Wimbledon champion Pat Cash and John Fitzgerald 6-3 7-6 (7-4) 3-6 3-6-2.

"We only dreamt about this. Today it has all come true," said Antonitsch, who outshone the higher-ranked Muster in a match that gave Austria a place in the second round.

In Karlsruhe, West Germans Boris Becker and Eric Jelen put the defending champions into the second round of the Davis Cup today when they beat Indonesians Suharyadi and Wally Walalang 6-2 6-4 6-1.

The doubles victory gave West Germany a winning 3-0 lead in the five-match first round tie in the world group.

Despite the comfortable victory, which followed equally easy singles wins by Becker and Carl-Uwe Steeb yesterday, Becker paid tribute to Suharyadi and Walalang, ranked 525th and 947th in the world respectively.

"The Indonesians showed in the second set that they could play good tennis," Becker said. "Walalang's strength is that he is a good fighter."

In Malmö, Sweden, Australian Open surprise semifinalist Jan Gunnarsson played a hero's part as dethroned Davis Cup champions Sweden beat Italy in today's doubles to get within one match of the second round.

The 26-year-old Swede, a late replacement for the exhausted Jonas Svensson, paired up with doubles specialist Anders Jarryd to defeat Omar Camporese and Diego Nargiso 7-6 (8-6) 7-5 6-4 for a 2-1 Swedish lead in the world group first round tie.

In Fort Meyers, Fla., the dynamic teenage duo of Andre Agassi and Michael Chang gave the United States a commanding 2-0 lead over Paraguay in their Davis Cup world group first round matches yesterday.

Agassi, 18, routed Hugo Chapacu 6-2 6-1 after Chang, 16, wore down veteran Victor Pecci 6-7 (5-7) 6-3 6-4 6-2.

And in Prague, Czechoslovakia reached the second round of the Davis Cup world group today when Tomas Smid and Petr Korda stroled to a straight-sets doubles victory over Andrei Olkhovski and Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union.

The Czechoslovak took an unbeatable 3-0 lead before tomorrow's return singles with a 6-3 6-4 6-4 win in a match that was an anti-climax after yesterday's five-set battle between local star Miloslav Mecir and teenage Soviet newcomer Andrei Cherkasov.

Sulayem to be without Morgan in Qatar Rally

By Gail Seery

RONAN MORGAN, Bin Sulayem's Irish co-driver, will not be partnering the Middle East champion in the Qatar Rally, informed sources stated yesterday.

Sulayem is in the process of switching sponsors, from Marlboro to Winston, and the slowness with which negotiations were conducted meant that Morgan had already accepted offers for European and World Championship events with other partners, which clash with the opening round of this year's championship, and also with the Masafi 4wd rally in Dubai in late February.

Navigator

Morgan is widely reputed to be the most talented navigator to have rallied in the Gulf, and there can be no doubt that Sulayem will miss him.

No announcement about a stand-in for those events has yet been made. Morgan is expected to return to Sulayem's side for the Jordan Rally in May.

World record

MOSCOW, Feb 4, (Reuters): Radion Gataullin of the Soviet Union broke his own world indoor pole vault record today when he leaped 6.02 metres. Gataullin set the previous record of 6.00 in Leningrad on Jan 22 this year.

Navratilova to meet McNeil in final

TOKYO, Feb 4, (Reuters): top-seed Martina Navratilova unleashed a barrage of volleys to demolish eighth seeded Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2 6-2 and reach the final of the \$300,000 Women's Open indoor tennis tournament on Saturday.

Seventh seed Lori McNeil came from behind to oust her former training partner Zina Garrison 5-7 6-4 6-4 in the other all-American semifinal.

Power

Navratilova, 15 years senior to her 17-year-old rival, showed greater agility and power than Fernandez and afterwards declared: "I was happy with everything today."

The world number two added: "I felt on even terms with her on the baseline and had a big advantage at the net because I like the fast surface."

Navratilova broke serve in the fourth game of the first set and in



Navratilova shows her concentration on her way to victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

the second of the last and never allowed Fernandez the opportunity to fashion a recovery.

Fernandez mustered a couple of fine service returns but was forced onto the defensive every

time Navratilova swept forward to the net.

McNeil and Garrison, practice partners for 13 years until last season, knew each other's game so well that their tie appeared at times to hinge on telepathy.

In the end, only McNeil's consistently faster serve and a impressive touch separated them.

"I continued to serve well throughout the match and I think that allowed me to beat her," said McNeil, ranked 13 in the world.

Angled

Garrison saved two match points in the ninth game of the final set only to lose in the next game when McNeil angled a backhand volley out of her reach.

But things may not go so well for McNeil in tomorrow's final. She has lost to Navratilova in all five of their previous encounters.

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